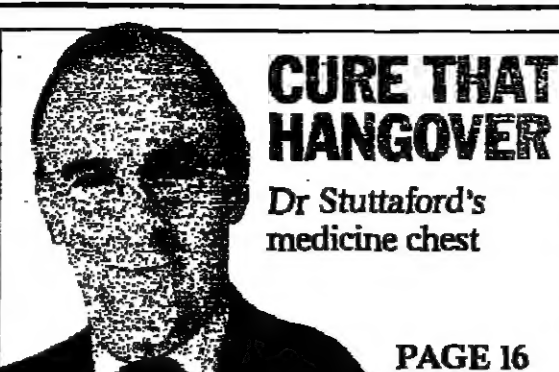


## MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

Celia Brayfield on Paula Yates

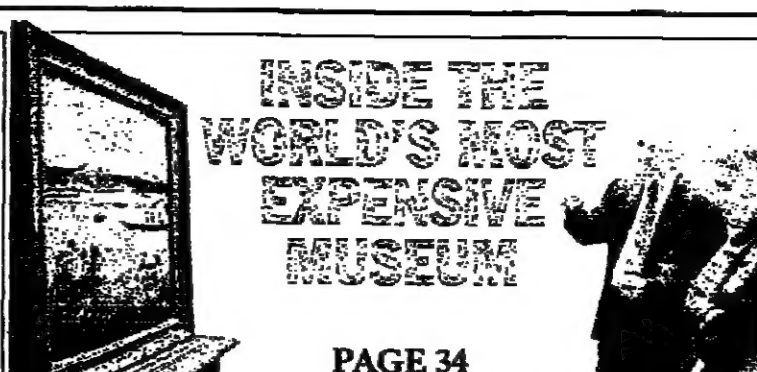
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## CURE THAT HANGOVER

Dr Stuttaford's medicine chest

PAGE 16



## INSIDE THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE MUSEUM

PAGE 34



Grown-ups behaving badly at Christmas

PAGE 18

## Retaliation for safety check delay

# Britain puts health ban on EU beef

By CHARLES BREMNER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef yesterday when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April.

In language reminiscent of John Major's "beef war" in the summer of 1996, he attacked "fraudulent" arguments being put forward in Brussels and claimed that his EU counterparts had "prevaricated and obfuscated" to avoid new anti-BSE health controls.

There were legal doubts over Britain's move last night, and suspicions in Brussels that Dr Cunningham was seeking to distract attention from his ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which came into force at midnight in spite of protests and demonstrations by farmers, butchers and consumers. No other European state has imposed such a restriction.

It was clear also that the impact of this gesture would be limited. Meat from Ireland, the main importer to Britain with 54,000 tonnes last year, France and The Netherlands already conforms to the planned code on the removal of the brain, spinal cord and eyes from cattle, sheep and goats. However, there was an obvious risk of the "war" being resumed, with the possibility of action against Britain in the European Court.

The strongest objection to the new British rules could be expected from Germany, which claims that it has no BSE and so its producers should not be burdened with costly processing requirements.

The European Commission sought the delay in the slaughterhouse code — agreed last July and due to come into



"Me? They found a rib of beef in the bottom of my suitcase"

and delaying. I am going to implement it unilaterally on behalf of the United Kingdom to make sure beef coming in is as safe as the beef we have at home. I can't believe that it is good for the reputation of the Commission or the EU that a decision properly taken in July has got to the point where it has failed to be implemented six months later."

He rejected the claims of eight nations that they did not need such measures because they had not suffered from BSE. If the EU were to operate a single market in beef, the same rules and regulations had to apply throughout.

"There is a single market in beef. It is traded around that single market and there is no guarantee that beef coming from any country in the EU is beef that has been raised in that country. You can purchase beef in one country where BSE exists and wholesale it from another country where BSE doesn't exist. So it is a completely fraudulent argument to suggest that somehow that provides a safeguard. It doesn't provide any safeguard at all."

Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the rest of the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU suppliers, with the exception of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketed in Britain. Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease.

An aid package for hill farmers affected by the BSE crisis is expected to be announced later this week.

Sales ban, page 4  
Letters, page 19



David Cray of the British National Cattle Association delivers a £27 beef rib joint to 10 Downing Street yesterday. It was "disposed of" as unsafe

## Downing Street rib joint ends in bin

By ADRIAN LEE

A 15lb rib of beef was delivered to 10 Downing Street yesterday — and was destined to go straight into the dustbin.

The joint was taken to the doors of No 10 in protest at the ban on the sale of beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight. The National Cattle Association said it wanted the Prime Minister could experience the "excellence of the product" first hand and handed it to a policeman.

It was taken inside, but a Downing Street spokesman said that it would be thrown away, in line with government advice that it was not safe to eat. "Obviously this is part of a publicity campaign by farmers and they are perfectly entitled to make their case. But clearly the beef on the bone cannot be eaten and it will be disposed of."

The demonstration outside No 10 was one of a series of protests and rallies opposing the ban, while customers were rushing to buy T-bone steaks,

ribs and oxtails before the midnight deadline.

And last night pubs and restaurants held defiant farewell celebrations to traditional favourites. At Butchers' Hall, near Smithfield meat market, about 100 guests of the City

caterers Chester Boyd feasted on oxtail soup and baron of beef washed down with bull-shot, a drink made from vodka and beef consommé.

At Westminster, butchers in working aprons paraded with a forerib of beef outside the House of Commons and presented the Conservative MP Bill Cash with a petition signed by 106,000 members of the public requesting that they be allowed to make up their own minds. "To get so many signatures in just four days shows that the public is overwhelmingly against this ban, which was a kneejerk, panic measure," Mr Cash said. "The British public do not want a nanny state telling them what to eat."

Trading standards officers have also written to the Government complaining that the new law is confusing and could be impossible to enforce, and a black market is expected to flourish.

Gordon Oresty, head of trading standards in North Yorkshire, expected butchers

with regular customers in small communities to flout the ban. "It is going to be extremely difficult to police. I am certain we will see under-the-counter deals which will be virtually impossible to stop."

Bob Dove, a butcher in Battersea, southwest London, also believed that a black market might thrive, but said: "I suspect the Government will soon stop us buying beef on the bone if they suspect butchers of breaking the law." That would play into the hands of the supermarkets and send scores of independent butchers under.

Both Mr Dove and Danny Hepburn, a butcher from

Mountnessing, Essex, reported that customers had been stockpiling beef. Mr Hepburn said: "They are disgusted by this. One man came in at the weekend and filled his boot with foreribs and oxtail. I have sold more oxtails in the last week than I would normally sell in a year."

By last night, however, most restaurants had reluctantly removed beef on the bone from their menus. Michel Bourdin, head chef at the Connaught Grill in London, said he felt like committing suicide, but added: "I will adapt. What can I do? I don't want to go to jail for trying to save British gastronomy."

## Farewell Dinner for the Roast Beef of Oude England

Oxtail Soup with Chestnuts

Roast Baron of Beef on the bone  
Horseshoe Relish  
Pommes Boulangère (with Beef Stock)  
Mélange of Beans

Treacle Pudding with Traditional Custard  
Croque Cunnigham  
Rich Roast Arabica Coffee & Sweetmeats

The final night's menu

## Stubby Kaye dies aged 79

Stubby Kaye, the chubby comic who rose to stardom with his performances as Nicely-Nicely Johnson in the stage and film versions of *Gone with the Wind*, has died, aged 79, at his home in California.

## South set for the big freeze

By PAUL WHITTAKER

MUCH of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter yet with weather forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow flurries in some areas.

The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread in from eastern Europe. Temperatures in Moscow plummeted to -27C yesterday.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said last night that everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today.

"There will be some flurries of snow today but we are not expecting any significant falls. We should see the odd dusting. It is possible some areas will get a little bit more," he said.

The spokesman said temperatures nationwide ranged between 4C and 6C yesterday with the coldest day of winter — which officially began on December 1 on the meteorological calendar — set to arrive in most areas today.

He said it was too early to predict which areas could expect a white Christmas, with most of the country returning to temperatures nearer normal by the end of the week.

Photograph, page 12  
Forecast, page 24

## 'CJD' blood products given to 3,000 patients

By AUDREY MAGEE AND IAN MURRAY

UP TO 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE.

None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk of them developing the disease is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm.

Although hospitals have been advised to return the product, used in X-ray screenings to detect lung disease, so far only 15 per cent has been recovered.

There is no order obliging hospitals to return it and some clinicians may go on using up stocks on the basis that patients are far more likely to die from infections or cancer than from CJD.

Another 268 patients in Ireland are known to have been given injections from the same batch of the product. The Irish Health Ministry has decided to notify all the patients concerned.

Even though the identity of all those who have been given an injection of the product is known, it was decided not to tell them because there is no evidence that the illness can be transmitted through the blood

or the serum derived from it to make the product and the risk of developing CJD is regarded as negligible.

"You are putting an enormous burden on people by telling them they have a remote risk of contracting the disease," the department said last night. "The ethics committee which advises us on these matters decided it was just not appropriate to tell them."

A blood transfusion service spokesman said: "There is no test for CJD or treatment so what would you say to people? They should not be informed because you are likely to cause a lot of unnecessary anxiety."

The blood from the donor was sent 18 months ago to the National Blood Transfusion Service laboratory, where it was split into a number of different products. The donor's plasma was mixed with some taken from 49,000 other donors to make 8,174 bottles of albumin, the water-soluble protein found in blood.

Many were exported but 210 of the 50ml bottles remained in Britain and were sent to eight different hospitals and companies. Some of the bottles were used intravenously to rehydrate burn victims.

One bottle was sent to Nymed Amersham which used it to produce 14,000 vials

of Amerscan Pulmonate II, an agent which is injected into the lungs so that infections and cancer show up under X-ray.

The company sent almost 3,700 vials to 100 British hospitals between July and November. The rest was exported to about 40 different countries.

At the end of October the European Committee on Proprietary Medicinal Products issued new guidelines requiring the withdrawal of blood products derived from donors who were confirmed CJD cases.

Despite regular alarms, there has never been any convincing evidence that blood or blood products can transmit CJD (Nigel Hawkes writes). Unless new variant CJD, the human form of "mad cow" disease, is more easily transmitted than classic CJD via blood or blood products, there does not appear to be any cause for concern.

For classic CJD the risk seems negligible. About 50 people a year die of the disease, so it is certain that every year some of them give blood after they have the infection but before its symptoms appear. Studies show that classic CJD can be passed on in human tissue, but not — so far as we know — in blood.

## RAF to retrieve Branson balloon

A Royal Air Force Hercules crew has been drafted in to retrieve Richard Branson's stranded balloon in Algeria.

The balloon, which broke its moorings last week just before the Virgin chief's latest attempt to circumnavigate the globe, will be picked up by the RAF crew today and taken to the Branson team base in Morocco. Mr Branson will meet the cost.

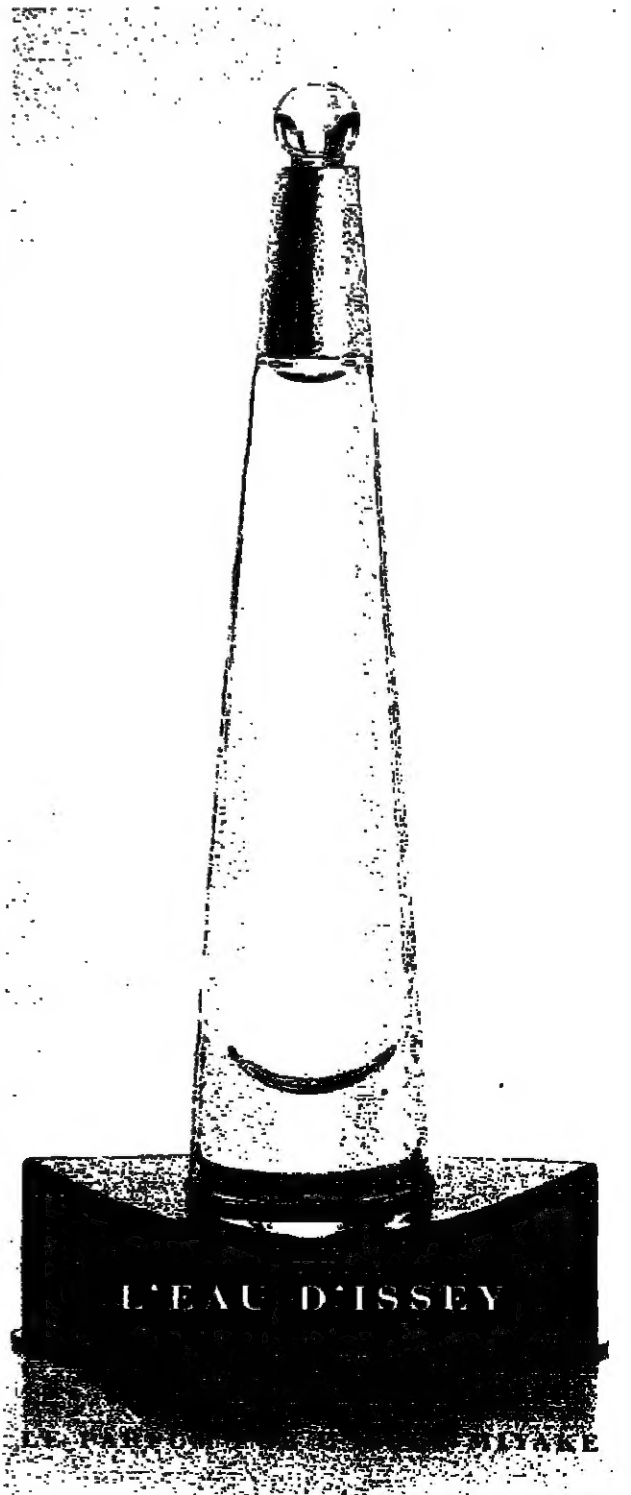
## Yard condemned over murder case

Scotland Yard's inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority.

The report was drawn up after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled. Page 9

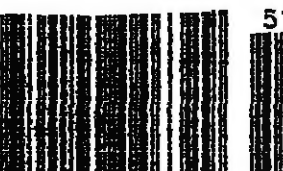
## 80 are killed in desert air crash

An airliner carrying 86 people crashed in the desert yesterday nine miles from Sharjah airport in the United Arab Emirates, killing at least 80 people. The Tupolev aircraft was en route from Tajikistan to Sharjah. Security men at the ground where England were playing Pakistan were called to the scene (AP)



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# Icy chill pushes aside memories of summer

WINTER can come suddenly. One week it is an Indian summer; then you open a window and the season has turned.

Watching Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, knocked about at the dispatch box during questions yesterday, we seemed to see a political summer fled as fast. A fortnight ago the Commons scene looked set fair for the Government. Every question time was the same. Tories asked rude or silly questions. Ministers ignored them. Labour backbenchers asked poodling questions, then rolled onto their backs to have their tummies patted.

Returning to the gallery yesterday felt like returning, not after a

weekend, but after a year on another planet: a year during which goodwill had ebbed slowly away and the Government's credit with its backbenches had gradually been spent. There was a sharpness in the air. Parliament had regained its edge. It was not the same place as we left last Wednesday.

Here is Lynne Jones (Lab, Selby Oak), who asked sarcastically whether ministers thought a weekly payment of £77 to lone mothers was adequate. "What confidence can people have in the Prime Minister's weekend statement about looking after those in need?"

Here is Llew Smith (Lab, Blaenau Gwent), who asked Ms Harman "how many constituents

visiting her surgery this weekend urged her to stick to Tory spending cuts?" Diane Abbott (Lab, Hackney N and Stoke Newington) cast doubt on whether Ms Harman's "new deal" for lone parents was actually getting more into work.

Here is David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N) insisting, with a wry glance at his front bench, that he himself was "not worried in any way" that the Government might sell out on the disabled. "The Prime Minister says the disabled will be

protected and that's what Labour MPs want. She [Ms Harman] should bear in mind not just Treasury ministers."

These are known leftwingers. What is new is not their views, but a willingness now to lift a more (or less) tentative snout above ground and express them. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover) even took a kick at Ms Harman's scary Minister of State, Frank Field, instead of the easier target presented by the Secretary of State herself. Old

opinions have gathered new muscle in a matter of days.

Less showy, but as interesting, was the worried silence of most loyal backbenchers and the obvious hunger for reassurance of those who spoke. Harman was ill-supported and the cheers were ragged.

As a debater Ms Harman seems incapable of meshing with anything but a repetition of her own opinions. On each new occasion she takes refuge in a new catchphrase. Last time it was "restructuring welfare around the work ethic". Yesterday people did not want to be "written off to a life of dependence on benefits" — as though anyone had suggested they did. Questions are simply ignored

— met with a tin-voiced repetition of the day's mantra.

Frank Field does not ignore questions. When Professor Steven Webb, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, is called to put a question, Skinner is wont to shout "this 'ad better be good", and yesterday Webb was good. Tony Blair, he said, had promised to protect the benefits of disabled people in need. Did Mr Field think any were not in need?

"If he [Webb] thinks they are all equally entitled," replied Field coolly, "his constituents must be different from mine."

In a wolk of tofu from Ms Harman, a shard of flint from Mr Field can break your teeth.

MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## Hague takes traditional route to altar

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE and Ffion Jenkins, who have been living together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding day and spend the night apart.

The Tory leader will savour the last moments of bachelorhood on Thursday night with Sebastian Coe, the double Olympic gold medalist, who is his chief of staff.

Wine and beer will be flowing until the early hours at Mr Coe's Surrey home as Mr Hague, 36, puts the finishing touches to the most nerve-racking speech of his life after the ceremony at the Gothic chapel of St Mary Undercroft at the Palace of Westminster.

Miss Jenkins, 29, who will spend the evening at a family dinner, has also adhered to convention. She has denied her husband a glimpse of her wedding dress. Mr Hague has not even been told where she bought it. Only a handful of close friends and family are in the know.

The bride's elder sister, Marion Williams, 32, who is the assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales, will be the only bridesmaid. There was speculation last night that the eve-of-wedding family dinner would be held in Dr Williams's grace-and-favour apartment at Kensington Palace.

"They are both great believers in the traditions of mar-

riage. They will not be together the night before and William will not see the dress until Ffion walks into the chapel," a Tory official said last night.

They have not always been so conformist. The youngest Tory leader for 200 years became the first to live openly with an unmarried woman when they moved into his rented flat.

The couple have since taken a bigger apartment in the same complex in London. It will be their marital home during the week.

At the party conference in Blackpool Mr Hague had his first disagreement with Bar-

oness Thatcher, who helped him to secure the leadership, when he shared a suite with his fiancée. The former Prime Minister was critical of his decision.

"This is different. You get married only once. They both wanted to do it the right way. I think you will find most brides like to be with their Mum the night before," one of Mr Hague's friends said.

Details of the order of service were being withheld by the Tory leader's office but Miss Jenkins has decided not to promise to obey her future husband.

He, however, is already

obeying the Oxford-educated graduate: he has agreed not to work on Sundays other than in exceptional circumstances and to take one weekend off each month.

Miss Jenkins has agreed to take Mr Hague's name but will continue to use her maiden name as operations director for the Association for British Sponsorship of the Arts.

Only five MPs will be among the 170 guests in the crypt when the couple pledge their vows in English and Welsh.

It was her knowledge of Welsh which kindled the spark of romance when she taught him to sing the National Anthem in her mother tongue when he was Welsh Secretary two years ago.

Three of the MPs, Alan Duncan, his political private secretary, Mr Coe, and David Lidington, his parliamentary aide, will act as ushers along with Nick Cleeve, a school-friend.

The others are Julie Kirkbride, the MP for Bromsgrove, and her husband Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary. The last time they set foot in the chapel was at the end of July for a blessing of their marriage.

The reception is being held at the Speaker's House and the next day the couple will hold a party for the bride's family and friends in Wales before they go on honeymoon.

The location is one of politics' worst kept secrets: they will stay at a series of romantic settings in India and are expected to visit the Taj Mahal, one of the world's most enduring monuments to love.

Wedding presents are pouring in. Each member of the Shadow Cabinet is donating £50 for a gift. The remainder of the 164 Tory MPs gave £10 for their own present.

The latest request for a gift list is from the Conservatives Abroad branch in Pathos, Cyprus. They can choose between fish knives or tea towels.



Shirley Stephen, Patricia Stephen, Isobel Podlesney and Wilma Cameron. Appeal caught public imagination

## Anger after trawler bodies are finally brought home

By Shirley English

THE families of the crew of the trawler *Sapphire*, finally lifted from the sea with the bodies of their loved ones, said yesterday that Tony Blair and his government ministers should hang their heads in shame for refusing to provide financial help for the recovery operation.

Just hours after four bodies found on the vessel, which sank in storms off Peterhead, Grampian, 76 days ago, had been formally identified, Wilma Cameron, mother of one of the victims, said: "We have prayed for this, to get our loved ones home. Now we do know that when you do pray you do get answers."

The families have yet to decide whether to hold a joint funeral for the four men.

Widows Shirley Stephen, 24, Isobel Podlesney, 45, Patricia Stephen, 32, and Mrs Cameron, 58, paid tribute to the public for helping to raise

Tony Blair should hang his head in shame over government failure to help us, say *Sapphire* families

the £500,000 needed to pay for the recovery operation.

The women set up the *Sapphire* Trust and launched a public appeal for funds after Glenda Jackson, the Government's shipping minister, refused to help. Most of the money for the recovery was raised within three days.

Mrs Podlesney, whose husband Victor, died, said: "Glenda Jackson and Tony Blair can hang their heads in shame. I do hope they review the situation, so that if there is another tragedy no other family has to go through the agony that we have been through."

Mrs Stephen, speaking on the day her husband Robert would have celebrated his 20th birthday, said: "Never

underestimate the power of four women because what we have done we have done on our own and with Alex's (Salmond) help and proved Glenda Jackson wrong. All we ever wanted was the boys home."

The lifting operation, which had been repeatedly delayed for two months due to bad weather, was the first of its kind. The *Sapphire* sank within sight of its home port of Peterhead on October 1.

It was lying on its side on the seabed in 273 feet of water just 12 miles off-shore. On Sunday, after weeks of worry and anguish, hundreds of locals watched as the fishing boat finally returned home carried on the lifting wires of

the Dutch floating crane barge Tak Lift 7. It then took a specialist team of police and salvage experts three hours to search the vessel and find the four men. Bruce Cameron, 32, Victor Podlesney, 45, Adam Stephen, 29, and Robert Stephen, 25. Their bodies were in the wheelhouse and accommodation area. Only the skipper, Victor Robertson, 27, had managed to survive after escaping through the wheelhouse window. He was picked up after spending 90 minutes in a life raft. He has since left the area.

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said it was an "extraordinary story of guts, resolution and determination by four families."

He said the women had been treated "shabbily" by the Government and he hoped the situation would now be reviewed so that other people did not find a "vacuum of responsibility" where there should be help.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Girl died after fax error at hospital

A girl aged 5 died because her medical records were sent to a fax machine in a locked room to which no one had access over a weekend. Doctors, unaware of her medical history, gave her a massive overdose of drugs, South-west Coroner said.

Noorjahan Khan, 5, from Crawley, Sussex, who suffered from giant cell leucoplakia, fell ill on a visit to Middlesbrough, and was given the new drug Tacrolimus at South Cleveland Hospital.

She died in her father's arms on August 11, after being transferred to King's College Hospital in south London.

#### Airport alert

More than 1,000 passengers were evacuated from Heathrow's Terminal One after a second fire alert within three days. It turned out to be a false alarm and passengers were allowed back within 20 minutes. Flights were not delayed. There was disruption on Friday after fire broke out in a restaurant.

#### Inquiry widens

Police investigating allegations of widespread child abuse at six residential care homes in South Wales have extended their inquiry to include a further 27 homes. The move follows an appeal for information from former residents of homes in the region. As a result officers have received a further 250 claims of abuse.

#### Bonus barred

A Christmas bonus scheme for prisoners has been dropped after complaints that offenders were receiving the same amount of cash as pensioners. Inmates at Walton jail in Liverpool will be allowed to spend an extra £10 from their own money rather than receive the bonus from prison shop profits.

#### Silent Duchess

A busy schedule is reported to have obliged the Duchess of York to turn down a cameo role in a Broadway musical. The Duchess had been invited to appear in a production of *Jekyll and Hyde* alongside her friend Linda Eder. The producers had offered to write a part for the duchess and a special song.

#### Artist in court

The sculptor Anthony Kelly, cousin of the Duke of Norfolk and a favourite artist of the Prince of Wales, is to stand trial next month for allegedly stealing human body parts for use in works of art. Mr Kelly and Niel Kelly are charged with taking anatomical parts from the Royal College of Surgeons.

#### Saab reverses

A family-run business selling Indian food has won a legal battle against the Swedish car manufacturer Saab over the name of its pickles and spices. Saab has dropped its objection to the Bolton-based House of Raja using the name Memsab. It had claimed the name was too similar to its own trademark.



The happy pair: William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will revert to tradition before their wedding day

## Ulster leaders fail in search for Christmas breakthrough

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HOPES of a breakthrough before Christmas in the deadlocked Stormont talks were fading last night as two weeks of negotiations between party leaders drew to a close with no agreement on a future agenda.

The leaders' working group was

intended to jumpstart the stalled talks. However, barring a last-minute surprise, it will be unable to deliver an agreed direction at today's last plenary session before the holiday. Sources predicted a face-saving paper to keep options open.

"The prognostications are not good," said David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, whose

officials blamed Sinn Féin for a lack of realism and the Irish Government for a reluctance to break with Gerry Adams's party. A Stormont source said: "We were hoping to start the real business in the new year, but now we'll be coming back to work out what that business should be."

George Mitchell, the American

talks chairman, proposed the working group this month to identify key issues and the best format for resolving them. Mr Trimble said that his party and the nationalist SDLP had agreed on a paper, but other parties had found it unacceptable. Unionists claimed that Sinn Féin had rejected anything that conceded the principle of consent or

Northern Ireland's right to exist. SDLP officials were still hoping for a breakthrough, but suggested that the Unionists were as much to blame for opposing cross-border bodies. The UUP and Sinn Féin were "in denial," said one. A Sinn Féin spokesman denied his party was seeking to exclude any item.

Mr Trimble also insisted he had

no plans to meet Mr Adams "this week, next week, next month" or in "the foreseeable future". In a weekend television interview, the UUP leader had not ruled out a face-to-face meeting with the Sinn Féin president, but officials said that no such meeting was possible until Mr Adams had proved his commitment to peaceful, democratic methods.

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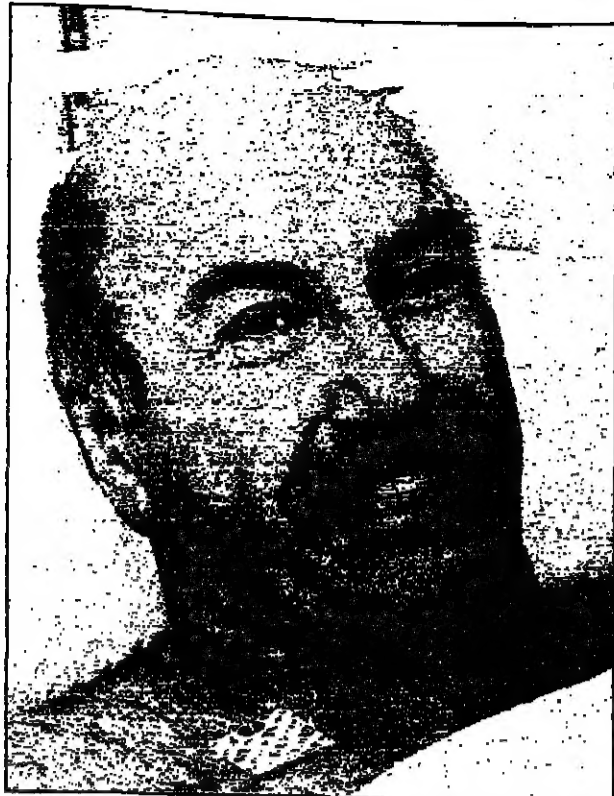
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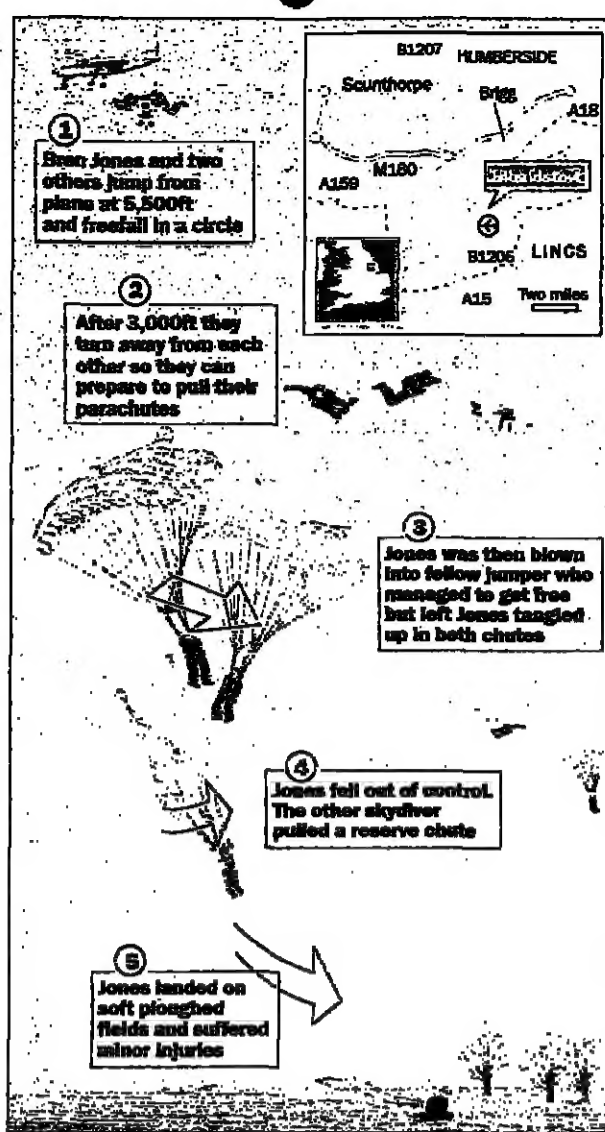


# That hurt, says man who fell 2,000ft



Bren Jones yesterday: cannot wait to jump again  
**Mud, glorious mud, saves a grandfather from serious injury after parachute fails.**

Paul Wilkinson reports



Dropping into trouble: how the parachute jump went wrong. Mr Jones, pictured in action, was described by his friends as "a devil-may-care sort of bloke"



THERE was only one certainty in the mind of a 56-year-old skydiver as he plunged 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Bren Jones thought: "This is going to hurt."

Then he may have passed out. Moments later, he found himself lying in the soft mud of a rain-soaked field. As anxious friends approached, he sat up and started joking with them.

The parachuting fanatic, who has repeatedly claimed that his hobby is no more dangerous than crossing a road, had survived with no broken bones and no serious injuries. He was right about one thing: it certainly hurt.

Yesterday the grandfather was recovering in Lincoln County Hospital with a lot of bruising and a chipped bone in his back. Doctors are also monitoring pain in his legs. Experts think that the cushioning effect of the muddy ground

saved him after his canopy became entangled with another parachutist, sending him spiralling down out of control. He said that he could not wait to jump again.

Mr Jones, who runs a suspended-ceiling business in Leeds, said: "I didn't have time to think about whether I would live or die. I was more concerned with just trying to control the parachute. The ground just approached painfully fast. I just knew it was going to hurt, and God it does."

"I can't remember hitting the ground. I'm just thankful I landed on soft, ploughed fields. I have extreme bruising which is giving me a lot of pain. This has not put me off parachuting and I will certainly be doing it again. It is a hobby which I enjoy and take seriously."

Friends describe Mr Jones as

just the sort of character to jump out of a plane and land safely without a parachute. Last Christmas, the veteran of 3,500 jumps joined an international group to sky-dive at the North Pole, and he celebrated his 50th birthday by parachuting into his back garden. He also does charity jumps and once took up a thalidomide sufferer so that she could experience the thrill of parachuting.

The divorced father of three grown-up children had jumped at 5,500ft on Sunday with members of the Target Skyports Club, linking hands with two of them. They fell more than 3,000ft, reaching a speed of about 120mph, before pulling their ripcords over Hibaldstow airfield, near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. Mr Jones said: "The canopy opened fully, but there was a gust of wind and I got blown into another jumper

and our chutes became entangled. We had no control. He shouted that he was going to disengage his parachute and then he used his reserve chute to land."

"But I could not free his chute from mine and I could not disengage them and use my reserve. I was completely tangled up. The canopy kept opening and closing and just flapping around. It was no use at all. I have no idea how fast I was dropping, but it is not something I would like to experience again."

Trevor Dobson, the club's chief instructor, watched from the ground. He said: "It was unlucky, and rare, but there was nothing either jumper could do to stop it. The other jumper managed to jettison his chute and went back into free-fall before deploying his reserve. But Bren was left with two canopies still attached. His kept

inflating and deflating and he was totally out of control. Bren had the other chute tangled up with his, so he could not steer. It wasn't fully open, so he was falling faster than normal. His parachute was open but not fully, it was twisting around but still gave him some degree of support. He hit feet first, then his backside hit the ground."

"We found him semi-conscious. He recognised me and was joking to us. He saw the air ambulance arrive and asked 'I'm not going to have to parachute into the hospital am I?' Bren was lucky to escape with no more serious injury."

The British Parachute Association is investigating the incident. John Hitchin, the association's safety officer, said: "Mr Jones kept his nerve in a very trying situation. He may have blacked out before he hit the ground, but he seems to have deployed his reserve chute at

about 300ft." Mr Jones's girlfriend, Carol Day, said: "It is remarkable he didn't break any bones. All he needs now is a couple of days' rest. I got a call from hospital saying there had been a 'bit of an incident'. Although he was on painkillers, he was still his usual self, causing mayhem."

Mr Jones has been parachuting for 30 years, and has been a British Parachute Association instructor for 26 years. Heather Clark, 36, a programme production co-ordinator at Yorkshire Tyne Tees TV, who has no arms and legs because of thalidomide, recalled how she had made a jump with him: "He's a very gentle man and was so nice. He even had a special harness made for me. It was once in a lifetime for me and Bren helped to make it."

"It was always something I had fancied doing, but I thought I

wouldn't be able to because of my disability. Bren explained everything to me and put me at my ease."

Curtis Hall, 56, a friend, added: "He is a devil-may-care sort of bloke. His feelings on life are to live today because tomorrow you might be dead. He says you can get killed crossing the road as easily as you can parachute jumping. When he got into difficulty he would have kept cool, calm and collected. If there was anyone who could have got away with it, I would have put money on Bren being the man."

Rash Rall, who runs the newsagents near his home in Horsforth, Leeds, said: "He is a great man, a character and a half. He doesn't talk about his charity work. He would help anyone at any time. I bet that when he gets back here, he will say nothing about it."

## Airline chief fights off 'Quality Street' raiders

By DANIEL MCGROARY AND TIM JONES

A MULTIMILLIONAIRE airline owner fought off two masked raiders who ambushed him inside his London home.

Police believe that Tony Ryan, 61, the owner of Ryanair, is the latest victim of "Quality Street" gangs who scour society columns and Who's Who to select targets.

He was punched and kicked to the floor by the men, who demanded that Mr Ryan revealed the combination number to his safe. The stockily built, bespectacled entrepreneur refused to be cowed and began to fight the two men.

He had been in the ground-floor flat for half an hour without knowing that the two thieves, said to be in their 20s, black and muscular, were also there. They grabbed him as he tried to leave. Minutes earlier a woman companion had left the flat.

A spokesman for Mr Ryan said last night: "It is obviously

very distressing to know they were inside the apartment. He thinks they could not open the safe so their last resort was to grab him. He was not going to give them the satisfaction of the combination number."

The men, who fled in an expensive car, did manage to grab £400 cash and jewellery, including a pearl necklace and diamond ring, brooch and earrings.

Detective Constable Gareth John, who is leading the investigation, said: "He put up quite a struggle and the men left with their tails somewhat between their legs. They were young and very fit, but Mr Ryan is pretty fit too. I think they must have been surprised at the fight he put up."

Mr Ryan refused hospital treatment despite injuries to his face and ribs, and within hours had flown to Ireland to attend a charity function.

Back in his Dublin office yesterday, Mr Ryan, who is



Ryan refused to be intimidated by raiders

said to have a fortune in excess of £100 million, was reluctant to say more about his ordeal. A spokesman said: "He feels a bit embarrassed, and angry at being assaulted in his own home. He started to fight them off because he felt so indignant. He is not a great fitness fanatic but he is a very

healthy man for his age and is still an active farmer among his many other interests. He certainly would not care to be portrayed as some intrepid 'have-a-go hero', more a man trying to defend his home."

Mr Ryan, the oldest of four sons of a Tipperary train driver, founded GPA — the world's largest aircraft leasing company — in 1975 with a £50,000 stake. GPA ran into trouble after an attempt to float the group and Mr Ryan severed his links in 1994 to concentrate on his cut-price airline, Ryanair, which, after amassing sizeable debts, has become the market leader on the Irish Sea routes.

Police last night said they were investigating whether the description of Mr Ryan's assailants matched those responsible for other "Quality Street" attacks. Their previous victims have included Michael Green, the Carlton TV chief, Lord Mishcon, the lawyer, and Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One magnate.

## Postal bride returns to sender

By PETER FOSTER

THE marriage of a former gas board chairman and a Thai woman 53 years his junior appeared to be at an end yesterday just six days after the couple began their new life together in Britain.

Brian Clegg, 76, was married to Banjit Sawangdee, 23, in Bangkok in October after being introduced by a "mail order" dating agency. The former chairman of Northern Gas said he hoped the liaison would provide a climactic closing chapter to his life after two failed marriages.

However, last night Mr Clegg was sitting alone in his penthouse flat in Poole, Dorset, after his wife, known to him by the nickname Joom, decided to leave. He blamed the break-up on his wife's demands for money, allegedly including £5,000 to buy her a home in Thailand and an allowance for several pov-



Banjit Sawangdee, 23, and her husband Brian Clegg, 76: "I feel thoroughly stitched up," he said



erty-stricken relatives. But Charles Black, whose company, Siam Introductions, arranged the marriage, said a newspaper deal arranged by Mr Clegg had strained the marriage to breaking point. Mr Black said: "The poor girl was a prisoner in the

house, so to speak, and couldn't go out because other newspapers were waiting outside. She was a simple girl. She really wanted to come over and be a housewife, but that wasn't to be."

Ms Sawangdee stands to lose financially if she di-

vores Mr Clegg and returns to her family in Thailand. According to Mr Black she had been left a house worth £100,000 in Mr Clegg's will and a pension worth £27,000 a year.

A former Mr Clegg said: "I feel thoroughly stitched up. I should have realised what was going on because she started making some outrageous financial demands before she even came over here. But I had a word with the agency and she was told to get back in her box a bit. ... Right from the start she wanted me to spend, spend, spend."

"I can either sit around thinking that I am an old man and my life is all behind me, or I can think of myself as a bachelor and get stuck in there. I've already had a woman from Ghana ring me up and offer her services as a replacement, so I have asked her to come and have a drink and see how we get on."





# 'Unsafe' meat can be imported but not sold

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

THE unilateral ban on the sale of imported beef and sheep meat which has not been subjected to the same safeguards as British meat will take effect from January.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, said foreign meat could be sold in Britain only if it had come from abattoirs that had removed the brain, eyes, tonsils and spinal cord from the carcasses of cattle, sheep and goats.

These organs are known as "specified risk materials" because they have been identified as being capable of harbouring BSE infection. The requirement to remove them would apply only to animals over the age of 12 months, although the spleen of sheep and goats of any age would also have to be taken out.

Dr Cunningham announced the ban after the European Union's standing veterinary committee voted yesterday to postpone the introduction of abattoir controls throughout Europe. These had been due to come into force at the start of next year.

Most EU states see no reason why they should be subject to the same restrictions as Britain. Last year Britain imported 150,000 tonnes of beef worth £363 million from all sources, of which 93,100 tonnes came from the European Union, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

It was not clear last night what impact Dr Cunningham's action would have. The biggest EU exporter of beef to Britain last year was Ireland, which sent 54,600 tonnes, but the Dublin Department of Agriculture said last night that Ireland already complied with British requirements.

The European Commission said that two other leading



Farmers at a rally at Westpoint exhibition centre near Exeter. They want £980 million compensation for the damaging effects of a strong pound

exporters to Britain, Holland (17,300 tonnes) and France (11,700 tonnes), were also thought to comply. But Germany (5,330 tonnes) does not have such safeguards and says it sees no reason why it should be subject to the same restraints as Britain.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that all non-EU

suppliers, with the exception only of New Zealand and Australia, would have to comply with the new regulations if their meat was to be marketable in Britain. This is apparently because only Australia and New Zealand are considered to pose no threat from either BSE or scrapie, the related sheep disease. In 1996

Britain imported 9,200 tonnes of beef from Australia, 8,200 tonnes from Uruguay, 7,600 tonnes from Argentina, 6,900 tonnes from Botswana, 6,400 tonnes from Namibia, 5,200 tonnes from Zimbabwe, 4,000 tonnes from Brazil, 3,900 tonnes from New Zealand and 2,800 tonnes from the United States. Nearly all Britain's

imports of sheep meat come from Australia and New Zealand, which are exempt.

Dr Cunningham admitted yesterday that he could not stop foreign meat being imported, but officials said he had the power to ban its sale if it did not meet British requirements. "I cannot ban imports of beef — though I think

farmers would like me to — but that would be a matter that would have me straight into the European Court," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme. "But I can insist that it can only come in if it has had the specified risk materials removed and been treated the same as British beef."

## Lamb sheepish as bone test goes all to pot

■ In the best tradition of food writers, Robin Young cried 'Foul!' when he accepted the Meat and Livestock Commission's challenge to taste the difference — and lost

I FACED the beef bone challenge yesterday, and won. Unfortunately, it was for all the wrong reasons.

The Meat and Livestock Commission's grandly titled Sensory Evaluation Department had arranged a controlled test to determine whether I could tell beef cooked off the bone from that cooked with the bone in.

Accepted wisdom among chefs, cooks and cookery writers is that the bone, which government regulations ban from today, makes beef juicier and more flavoursome. That view has had the support of, among many others, Delia Smith, Gary Rhodes, the Two Fat Ladies and our own *Times* Cook, Frances Bissell.

The meat industry's Sensory Evaluation Department was out to dispel that impression yesterday. "We want to reassure customers that they are losing nothing by way of flavour or cooking quality," said the British meat consumer marketing manager, whose name just happens to be Chris Lamb.

"Our tests have shown that consumers cannot tell the difference between beef cooked on the bone and boneless joints."

So now, the big question was: could I? For the trial, at the Good Housekeeping Institute in West London, they had taken forebears of beef, cut joints in half and boned one half while leaving the bone in the other.

The Good Housekeeping Institute's cook had then cooked the bone-in and boneless halves in the same oven in exactly the same way, before carving and serving on three plates, two from one half of the joint and one from

the other. I had to pick the odd one out.

I told Mr Lamb I expected to be able to distinguish the beef cooked on the bone because it would be juicier and probably taste better.

When the three samples arrived, one was immediately distinguishable as the odd one out at very first glance. Without even bothering to taste, I said that the two samples to the right were obviously from the same joint, and that on the left different.

Correct. That on the left was obviously drier. Fine — but that happened to be the beef cooked on the bone. Oh dear.

The explanation, I think, is that the Good Housekeeping Institute had cooked the joints for the same amount of time per pound. Overall cooking times were, therefore, shorter for boned joints. Result? The bone-in beef was overcooked, and therefore did not taste as good as it should, while the boneless beef was just about right.

Do I still think consumers are losing something by losing their bone? Yes I do. Beef cooked properly on the bone definitely does taste better.

Sadly, all the test proved was that neither the Meat and Livestock Commission nor the Good Housekeeping Institute knows how to cook beef on the bone, the traditional British joint that from today is a thing of the past.

My conclusion is supported by Frances Bissell. "Of course, the beef on the bone should not be cooked longer," she said. "The bone is not part of the meat, but is a good conductor of heat. It helps the beef cook more quickly." Sorry, Mr Lamb. I hope you are feeling a little sheepish.

### WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT: A GUIDE TO THE NEW FOOD SAFETY LAW ON BEEF THAT TOOK EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT

The ban on beef on the bone, which took effect at midnight, will be enforced under Section 16 of the Food Safety Act 1990. These are its main provisions:

- Any butcher, shop, hotel, restaurant or caterer that sells cattle bones, or bone marrow, or cuts of beef containing bone direct to the "ultimate consumer" is committing a criminal offence.
- Offenders run the risk of a fine of

up to £5,000 and/or up to six months' imprisonment if convicted in a magistrate's court, or up to two years in prison and/or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court.

- The ban applies to cattle bone and beef on the bone from any source at home or abroad. Local authority environmental health and trading standards officers will be required to enforce it.
- Beef on the bone is still legal from

cattle under six months old, but few animals are ready for slaughter before that age.

- The main outlawed cuts are ribs of beef (baron of beef, forerib, wing rib, flat rib, flank and brisket), T-bone steak and oxtail. Up to now these have accounted for 30,000 tonnes, or 5 per cent, of beef sales a year, a trade worth £150 million.
- Butchers and restaurants are still allowed to have beef carcasses

on their premises provided they take the meat off the bone before sale to their customers. This means, for example, that the fillets and sirloins contained within a T-bone steak can still be sold once cut from the bone.

- Restaurants are prohibited from using any cattle bones or bone marrow in the preparation of food for their customers.
- Manufacturers of soups, broths, bouillons, stocks cubes and gravy

granules cannot use bone of British origin as a raw material but may use imported bones, even from EU countries that have had cases of BSE. The level of BSE in these countries is not considered high enough to warrant a ban.

- Butchers are banned from selling cattle bones direct to customers to feed their dogs, but may sell the bones to pet feed manufacturers to be included in dog and cat food.

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# Clark says spoof diary harms his good name

By Emma Wilkins

THE reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by a series of newspaper articles that appeared under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Mr Clark, who is seeking damages and an injunction preventing the *Evening Standard* from further publication of "Alan Clark's Secret Political Diary", fears that readers do not realise the true author is Peter Bradshaw, a staff writer on the newspaper.

Although Mr Bradshaw's name appears in bold type at the top of the weekly articles, Mr Clark's photograph is prominently displayed. The accounts are written in the first person and refer to places that Mr Clark mentions in his best-selling 1993 diaries, including his homes in the Albany, Piccadilly, and Saltwood Castle in Kent.

"What greater damage could there be to an author than to present another man's words as his?" said Geoffrey Hobbs, QC, for Mr Clark.

Mr Clark was not suing for defamation or seeking to prevent the newspaper publishing clear "spoofs", Mr Hobbs



Hastings refused to drop the spoof diary

said. "His sole ambition is to prevent the *Evening Standard* from publishing parodies without making it clear that he is not the author," he said.

The court was told that the first spoof article was published soon after Mr Clark won the Conservative nomination for the seat of Kensington and Chelsea in January.

Shortly afterwards Max Hastings, editor of the *Evening Standard*, had offered Mr Clark £60,000 to write a

weekly diary for the newspaper, commenting on current affairs. Mr Clark had refused the offer, which was substantially less than he was receiving for his column in the *New York Times*.

A few weeks after Mr Clark's rejection a second parody appeared under the heading "Alan Clark's Secret Election Diary". Mr Justice Lightman was told. The title of the spoof articles was changed after the general election. During conversations in April and May, including one chance meeting at the Chelsea Flower Show, Mr Clark asked Mr Hastings to make the true authorship clear. But Mr Hastings had refused, claiming that the articles were "the most popular thing in the paper".

Mr Bradshaw's efforts were even praised by Clive James, the television presenter and satirist, who wrote in a note to Mr Bradshaw that he was "lost in admiration".

The court was told that *Evening Standard* journalists gave information about Mr Clark's movements to Mr Bradshaw as background for the diary. "Generally the tone is whimsical," Mr Hobbs said. "Some parts are quite ludicrous in order to create a humorous effect. Even so,

there's no reason why it couldn't have been written by Alan Clark."

But Peter Prescott, QC, for the *Evening Standard*, asked numerous witnesses whether they believed that stories in the spoof diary could possibly have been written by the real Mr Clark. In one extract, the diary told of the exuberant reaction of women supporters on hearing that Mr Clark was their new MP. "Have you ever

laboured under the impression that the ladies at his constituency adoption meeting cheered and flung their undergarments at him?" Mr Prescott asked Graham Halkerton, a witness for Mr Clark. Mr Halkerton, a barrister, replied: "I wouldn't be surprised at the blue-rinse brigade at Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Party. They adore him. He's their ideal candidate."

In a further spoof Mr Clark apparently confided to his

readers that he had enjoyed a drunken lunch at Wiltons (a fashionable restaurant in his constituency), forgotten to go to a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute where he was to be a guest speaker, and given a "lying" excuse.

Was it really credible, Mr Prescott asked, that Mr Clark should admit to these antics in the *Evening Standard* in the middle of a general election campaign? Mr Halkerton said he could quite imagine

Mr Clark, or anyone else, having a drunken lunch but acknowledged that the other matters were "rather odd".

Peter Luff, the Tory MP for Mid Worcestershire, said that he had read two diaries before realising they were spoofs. In one diary the writer had said that Anne Widdecombe, then Prisons Minister, had had her neck bolts airbrushed out of her election photographs. The case continues.



Alan Clark leaving the High Court yesterday. He rejected a £60,000 offer to write a diary in the *Evening Standard*

## Briton in court over mountain bus crash

FROM JEAN-PIERRE BENOIT IN ALBERTVILLE

A FRENCH prosecutor yesterday demanded a two-month suspended sentence and 11,000 franc (£1,100) fine for the British driver of a tour bus which crashed in the Alps, killing three Bolton teenagers last July.

The driver, James Shaw, appeared in court at Albertville, in the Savoie, yesterday to face manslaughter charges in connection with the crash, in which the three died and 25 others were injured, when the hired French bus plunged 60 ft from a mountain road into a ravine at Moutiers.

He also faces charges of involuntary manslaughter and failure to control the vehicle. A verdict will be delivered on January 5.

Mr Shaw, of Droylsden, Manchester, told the court through an interpreter: "As far as I am concerned I was driving safely. It was a winding road, narrow in places. The surface was in bad condition."

Jean-Pierre Beroud, the presiding judge, said the road had recently been resurfaced. "It seems to me there was a bump or a hole," replied Mr Shaw. Asked if the coach had toppled over towards the right, he said: "Possibly, I tried to put it back on the road."

Nicola Moore, 16, Keith Riddings, 14, and Robert Boardman, 15, died in the crash.

## Thief who won Iron Cross dies

By Philip Delves Broughton

A SAFECRACKER turned double agent who was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler while spying for the British has died aged 83.

Eddie Chapman was in prison in Jersey in 1940 when the Channel Islands were invaded by the Germans. The Germans took up Chapman's offer to spy for them, but when he was parachuted into Britain he got word to Scotland Yard about what had happened, and was duly asked by MI5 to act as a double agent under the codename Zig Zag.

When he was parachuted into Britain for the second time, he landed on concrete, knocking out all his teeth and damaging his back. For his efforts on behalf of Germany, he was awarded the Iron Cross in 1944.

Towards the end of the war, Chapman's counter-intelligence work helped to

misdirect many V1 and V2 bombs away from central London. The British pardoned him of all the crimes he committed before the war.

His wartime exploits, which included the attempted sabotage of British ships in Lisbon with explosives disguised as lumps of coal, were used as the basis for the 1947 film *Triple Cross* in which Chapman was played by Christopher Plummer, alongside Yul Brynner.

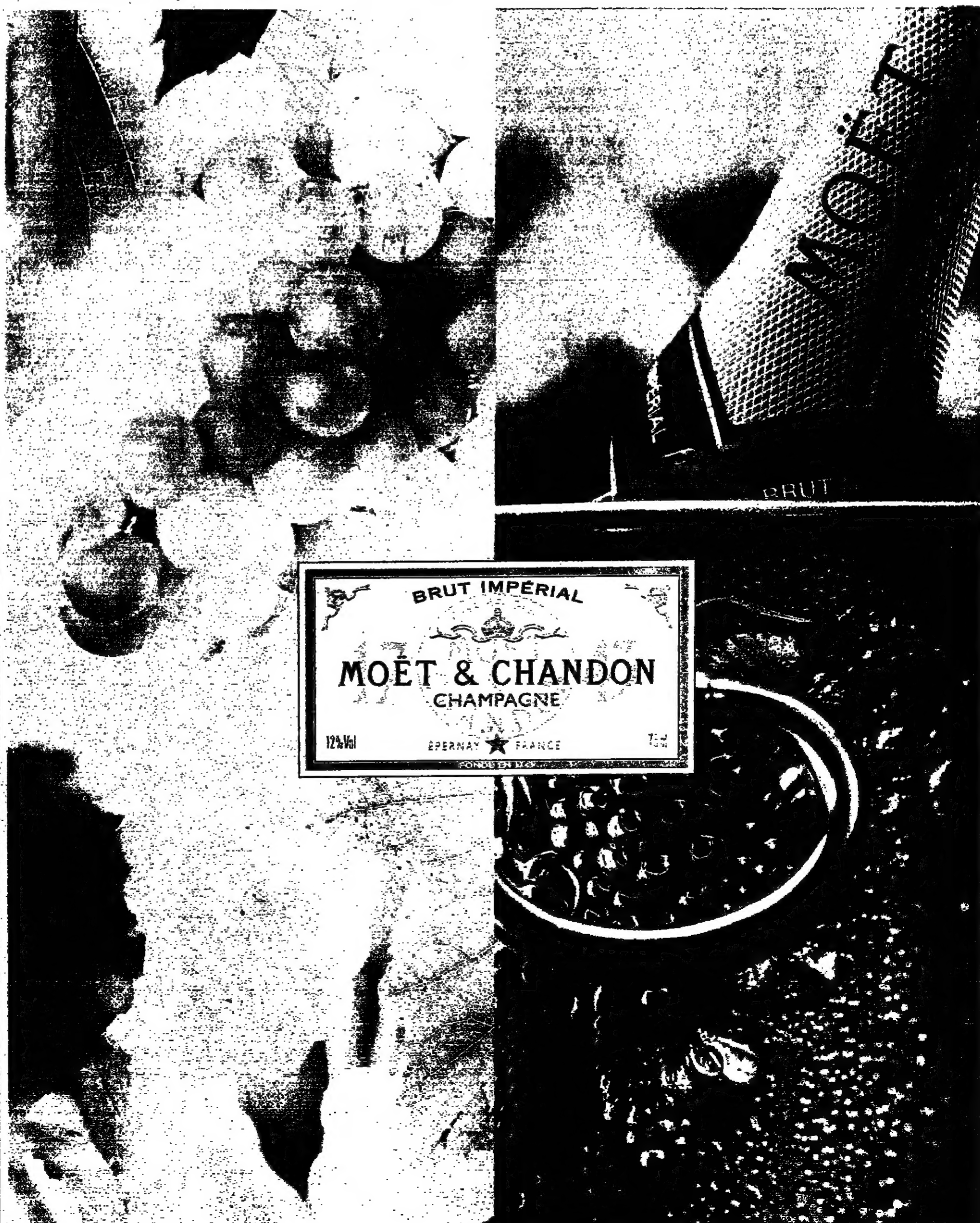
After the war, Chapman lived in some style in Spain and Amersham, Buckinghamshire. He was also a regular at the Star Tavern in Belgrave, whose patrons came from both sides of the tracks.

Chapman, who was married with a daughter and four grandchildren, will be buried in a private ceremony. The funeral will be held this Thursday in Amersham.

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# Jail for killers of couple who escaped Stalin's death camps

By PAUL WHITTAKER

AN ELDERLY Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered almost 50 years later by their fellow countrymen.

Joseph Ploch, 86, and his wife Kornela, 81, were tortured and left to die after three intruders broke into their home in Fulham, southwest London, last June.

Mrs Ploch, who had her wedding and engagement rings ripped from her fingers during the attack, was kicked in the face while lying on the floor downstairs and her husband suffocated to death upstairs as the gang tried to force them to reveal the whereabouts of a secret £40,000 cash hoard. The couple, who had been married for 60 years, were bound hand and foot with masking tape. Their bodies lay undiscovered for almost a week.

Their killers, Robert and Mariusz Maczka — two Polish brothers who entered Britain on student visas — have been jailed for life for the brutal murders. Yesterday at the Old Bailey a third member of the gang, Rafal Gutarewicz, 24, was sentenced to 11 years in jail for robbery.

The three men, who came to England from Poland in the summer of 1995, breached their conditions of entry by overstaying and working in the hotel and catering trade.

The court heard that on the way to England the brothers had selected elderly victims in Holland to fund their stay in the West.

The day of the killings wasn't the first time the couple



Joseph and Kornela Ploch were tortured and left to die at their £400,000 London home by the three-man gang

had met the gang. On an earlier visit the men had cased the Plochs' £400,000 home, posing as journalists researching a story on the couple's lives.

The Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney QC, yesterday lifted reporting restrictions concerning the life sentences imposed on the

brothers in June this year. The case could not be reported until after Gutarewicz's retrial on the robbery charge.

Robert Maczka, 20, pleaded guilty to both murders and robbery. His 22-year-old epileptic brother, who admitted only robbery, was found guilty of the murder of Mr Ploch and the manslaughter of his wife.

Gutarewicz, who was seen wearing Mr Ploch's clothing after the attack, was cleared of murdering the pair in the June trial but faced a retrial this month for robbery and the manslaughter of Mrs Ploch. He was cleared of the manslaughter charge on the judge's directions but found guilty of robbery.

In June the Common Sergeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, QC, told the brothers: "This was a cold-blooded murder of an old and infirm couple. You showed them no mercy, having assaulted them and in the case of Mrs Ploch with great ferocity. You left them tied by the hands and feet to die without even making a call for an ambulance."

A senior policeman who investigated the murders said the case highlighted the problem of criminal elements slipping into Britain after the break-up of the Soviet Bloc.

Detective Inspector Anthony Hulbert, who described the crime as a brutal and cowardly attack, said: "Increasingly

people from the former Warsaw Pact countries are coming here on visitors' passports and student visas. One minute they were under communist rule and then all of a sudden they find themselves in the West and everything they have seen on TV is open to them. It is a temptation. They want to get it and grab it."

The officer said it was very easy to get a job in the catering and hotel trade in Britain with no questions asked. He said this was where they met and formed their plan.

The three were living with a large group of their fellow countrymen in a flat at Lannoy Point, in Fulham, just two miles from the Plochs' large house.

During the raid, the gang found £10,000 in cash but missed a further £30,000 hidden in the cellar. They also stole clothing before calling a minicab to take them away.

Mr Ploch was a former history professor and his wife an actress. He worked in Britain as a draughtsman.



Gang members: brothers Mariusz, left, and Robert Maczka were jailed for life. Rafal Gutarewicz, right, was sentenced to 11 years at the Old Bailey yesterday

## Yard told to act on cost of sick leave

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has been urged to review its sick-pay and pensions systems after it emerged that sickness and injury cost the Metropolitan Police £72 million last year.

A National Audit Office study showed that 400,000 working days were lost last year because of sick leave, and on any one day about 1,500 officers out of the Metropolitan force of 27,000 were absent. The report urges the Yard to examine how its sick-pay system works, and questions its housekeeping. Long-term sickness and medical retirements have been rising throughout the 1990s although injuries on duty have fallen. Every day's reduction in the average sickness rate of 14.4 days a year — compared with a national average of eight days — would save the force another £6.3 million.

The current system, says the report, might encourage officers to stay off work for long periods in the hope of eventually getting medical retirement with an enhanced pension. It could also be used by those trying to avoid disciplinary hearings, a problem that the Yard has acknowledged to MPs in hearings on police complaints and discipline.

A quarter of all officers on sick leave were absent for longer than six months, and the figure is now higher than at any time in the past three years. Stress and spinal and neck injuries account for 38 per cent of illnesses.

At the end of the financial year, 302 officers had been off work longer than six months and were still receiving full pay. Since 1995 chief constables have been able to reduce sick pay if an officer is away longer than six months; 1,000 officers have taken long-term sick leave since 1995, and 90 per cent have continued to get full pay after six months. The rules for civilian staff are tougher: 90 per cent of the staff on sick leave for long periods have had their pay cut.

Since 1991-92 the number of officers leaving on sickness grounds has doubled. The NAO says: "Early retirement on medical grounds is financially advantageous to officers and correspondingly costly to forces. The arrangements provide incentives to officers to take long-term sick leave."

## Flying to Japan?

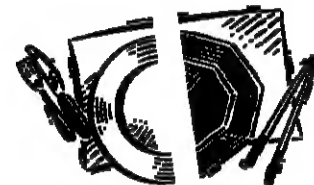
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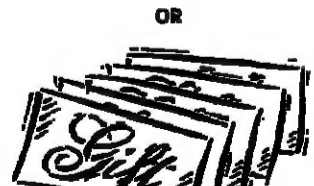
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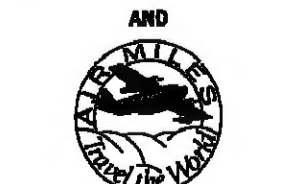
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## Scientists trap modest spider in web of love

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

NUMBERS of Britain's most colourful spider have quadrupled to 120 since scientists set up a "dating agency" for the last 30 survivors.

For 60 years the jewel-like ladybird spider was believed to be extinct in this country until a small colony was found in Dorset in the 1980s.

Joy was short-lived, however, when it was realised that the colony, which was confined to a site the size of a tennis court, was rapidly becoming even smaller.

Part of the problem was the arachnid's less than amorous mating habits. The male of the species (*Eresus cinaberrinus*) gets the urge to reproduce only once a year, and even then does not journey far in search of romance. He will steal along several yards of silk-lined tunnel and, if the search ends unrequited, as it often does, he dies. Even if successful, mating has tragic consequences. For once the female's eggs have hatched, her final maternal sacrifice is to be eaten by her brood.

The future looked bleak for the ladybird spider until scientists began tracking down the males and immediately pairing them off with members of the opposite sex.

English Nature's spider expert, Dr Roger Key, said

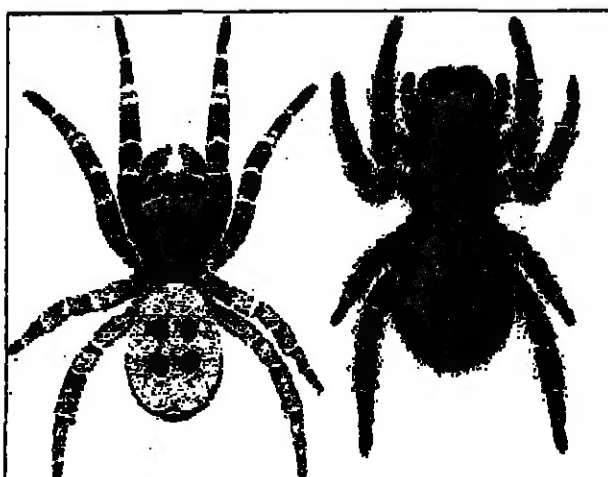
yesterday: "It is very like a dating agency. With so few individuals, we needed to make sure even the females on the edge of the colony succeeded in mating."

"It isn't a matter of them being shy or unwilling. There are just so few of them the female may sit in her burrow waiting for a boyfriend and have no luck. We maximise her chances of finding love."

The ladybird spider was once common in the West Country and the Isle of Wight. But huge areas of the dry heathland it favours have been ploughed up or ruined by invading rhododendron bushes. By 1920 the spider was thought to be extinct in Britain. But in the 1980s the tiny colony was found.

The species takes its name from the male's brilliant blood-red body, covered in black spots, while the elusive female is plain black. Both sexes live alone in silk-lined burrows with delicate tripwires radiating out to catch insects several times larger than themselves.

Dr Key said: "This is a gorgeous creature and very elegant in movement. The ladybird spider has the stealthy, purposeful walk of a bird-eating spider instead of the scuttling movement of house spiders."



Ladybird spider: the red male, left, and black female

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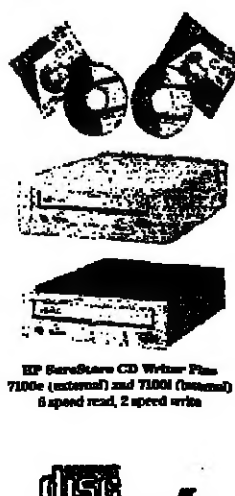
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Angus Colville

## Lost air ticket led to murder

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

A SCOTTISH aristocrat was stabbed to death as he went to get a replacement for a lost airline ticket while on a yachting holiday off Guatemala, Central America, an inquest was told yesterday.

Angus Colville, 58, brother of Viscount Colville of Culross, QC, had intended to spend the last few days walking in the mountains, but instead had to go to Guatemala City to pick up a new ticket.

The inquest at Tavistock, Devon, where he was a partner in a firm of chartered surveyors, was told that Mr Colville was attacked outside a sports stadium.

Julie Johnson, British vice-consul in Guatemala, said in a statement that the only known witness to the murder had told police Mr Colville had been beaten by two men before he was killed. A waist bag with money and documents was taken but the killers left a watch and a ring.

Timothy Trafford, who owned the yacht on which Mr Colville had been staying, said his friend had been advised to take taxis in unsafe areas.

A verdict of unlawful killing was recorded.

# Damning report condemns Met's Lawrence inquiry

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD'S inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager, was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to a scathing report published by the Police Complaints Authority yesterday.

The report was drawn up for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, based on the findings of an inquiry by Kent police after Mr Lawrence's parents complained about the way the case was handled. Mr Lawrence, 18, was stabbed by a gang of white youths in April 1993 as he waited for a bus in Eltham, South London. Nobody has been convicted.

Concentrating much of its criticism on Scotland Yard's first inquiry, the report paints a picture of an investigation during which senior officers were divided over who should be in charge, arrests were rushed, possible leads were ignored and detectives wrongly claimed they were hampered by lack of help from the public. When Scotland Yard reviewed the investigation the errors were not identified. Subsequent investigations were also flawed.

For a force that prides itself on the way it handles murder

cases the report will make a damning reading. At least one senior officer admitted privately that the report would have repercussions for all forces.

The authority's report demolishes Scotland Yard's claims that attempts to track down Mr Lawrence's killers were hampered by a "wall of silence" by local people. In fact there was "considerable evidence" that the people of Eltham had come forward, sometimes reluctantly, with valuable information about five white youths who were subsequently arrested for the killing.

The report said: "The early information was vital. It could only have come from sources close to the suspects since street rumour and gossip would not have had time to develop." The murder inquiry should have focused on this but there were numerous weaknesses in this area that have been identified by the complaint investigation.

Four days after the murder, there were 20 pieces of information pointing to the suspects who were eventually arrested. Some came from known sources and the anonymous sources could have been

identified if appropriate action had been taken, the report said. Information acquired from a local resident available during the first weekend after the murder might have produced evidence placing the suspects at the scene on the night of the killing, but it was not followed up for three days.

Within the first few weeks of the investigation, there was information from a number of sources, including police informants, that would have corroborated information linking four of the suspects to other knife attacks.

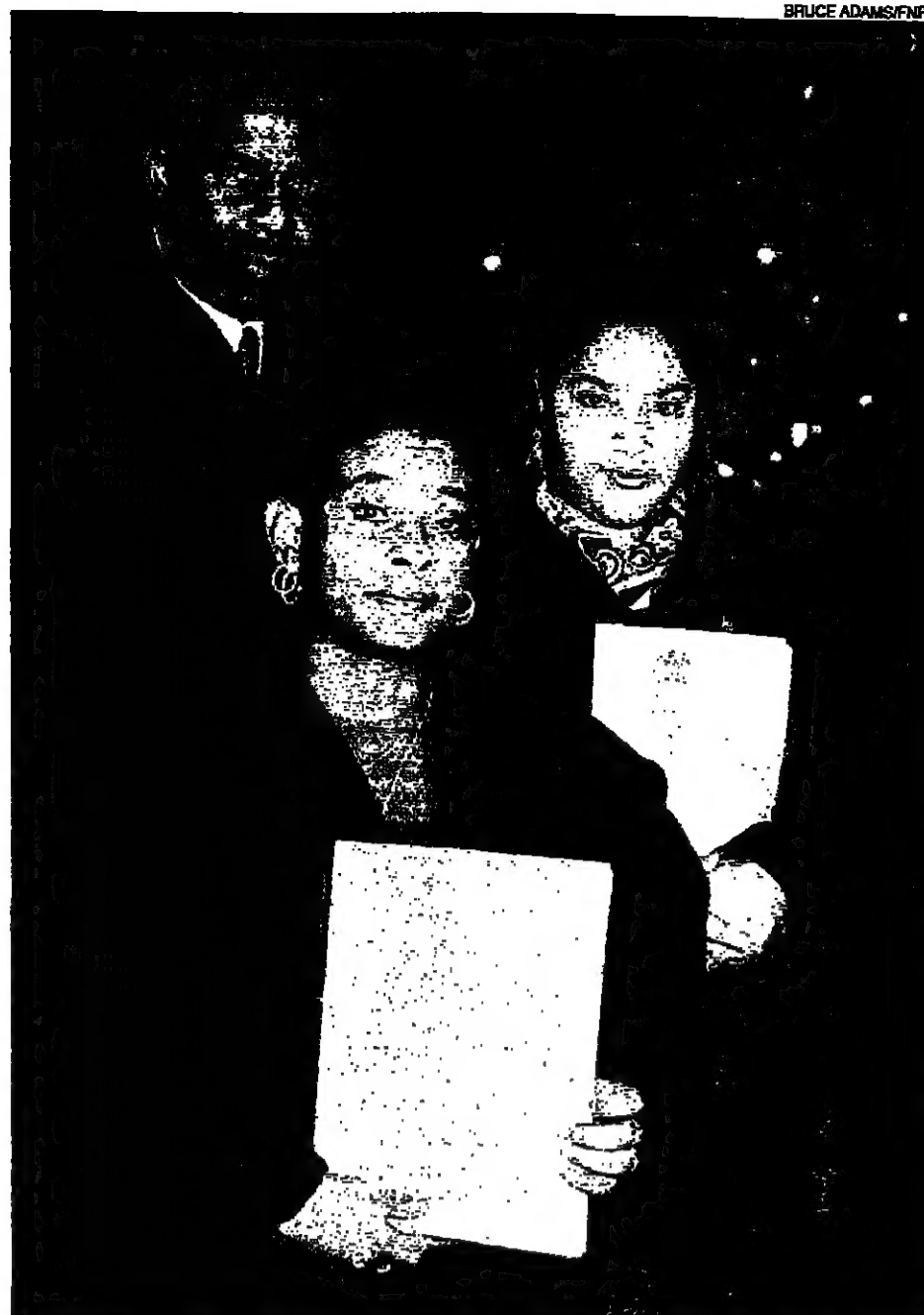
During the initial weekend there was even evidence available to arrest two of the suspects for a separate offence of attempted murder. "This might have assisted the investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder. However, the detective superintendents responsible did not take this opportunity, although they were aware it was available," the report said.

"Their reasons for this decision will be one of a number of professional judgments to be commented on in the investigating officers' final report."

It said that poor handling of the identification evidence might have led to one attacker being overlooked completely by the murder inquiry team. "An evaluation of the material shows that the murder investigation failed to analyse available information effectively by confusing a distinguishing feature of the suspects," the report said.

The report was also sharply critical of a surveillance operation mounted on a number of suspects and of the standard of the forensic tests carried out at the homes of those arrested.

In general, the investigation has identified weaknesses in the leadership, direction and quality of work of the first murder investigation, it said. Information was not dealt



Neville and Doreen Lawrence, Stephen's parents, and his sister Cheryl Sloley outside the Home Office yesterday with the Police Complaints Authority report

with systematically and lacked the necessary analytical approach to maximise its potential to produce evidence. The quality of supervision of officers was poor and assumptions were made about the standard of work being carried out that would not have withstood proper scrutiny.

The report said that arrests were rushed, ill-prepared and ill-planned. The detective superintendent in charge of the investigation was unavoidably absent at a crucial time shortly after the arrests of the main suspects, when two senior officers each insisted

that the other was responsible for the conduct of the investigation.

The report said that much information might never have come to light but for the persistence of Mr Lawrence's parents, Doreen and Neville, who were bitterly critical of the police handling of the case. "Nor would the lines of inquiry now made available to the Metropolitan Police Service by the complaint investigation have been identified."

Last night Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said some officers may face disciplinary

hearings over the investigation. Sir Paul said he accepted the main findings of the report and that there had been problems during the initial stages of the inquiry that might have affected the outcome. He said: "I have had the privilege of meeting the Lawrences twice. I have expressed my regret, my apologies that this didn't lead to a prosecution."

The report will now be passed to Sir William Macpherson of Chumy, the retired judge heading the public inquiry into the killing which is due to start taking evidence in public in February.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three die in fire at home for elderly

Three women were killed and two other people injured after a fire swept through a residential care home for the elderly yesterday.

Neighbours managed to pull one man clear of the burning four-bedroom bungalow and a care worker managed to escape by climbing out of a window. Both were treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Police said they believed the fire at the home in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, had started accidentally.

### Squirrels claim

An allegation that two royal gardeners drowned squirrels in the grounds of Kensington Palace is being investigated by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "It is not strictly illegal to kill them, but it has to be done humanely, certainly not by drowning," a spokesman said.

### RAF near-miss

An RAF Tornado came close to a mid-air crash when the pilot failed to see a Jersey European Airways plane, with 27 passengers, until the last moment, according to the Joint Airprox (airmiss) Working Group. Both aircraft had to make emergency turns near Exeter airport on April 8.

### Shops accused

Environmentalists accused the big high-street retailers of assisting the destruction of the world's forests by failing to stock Christmas cards and wrapping paper made of recycled material. Up to a quarter of a million trees will be felled to provide such goods this year, Friends of the Earth said.

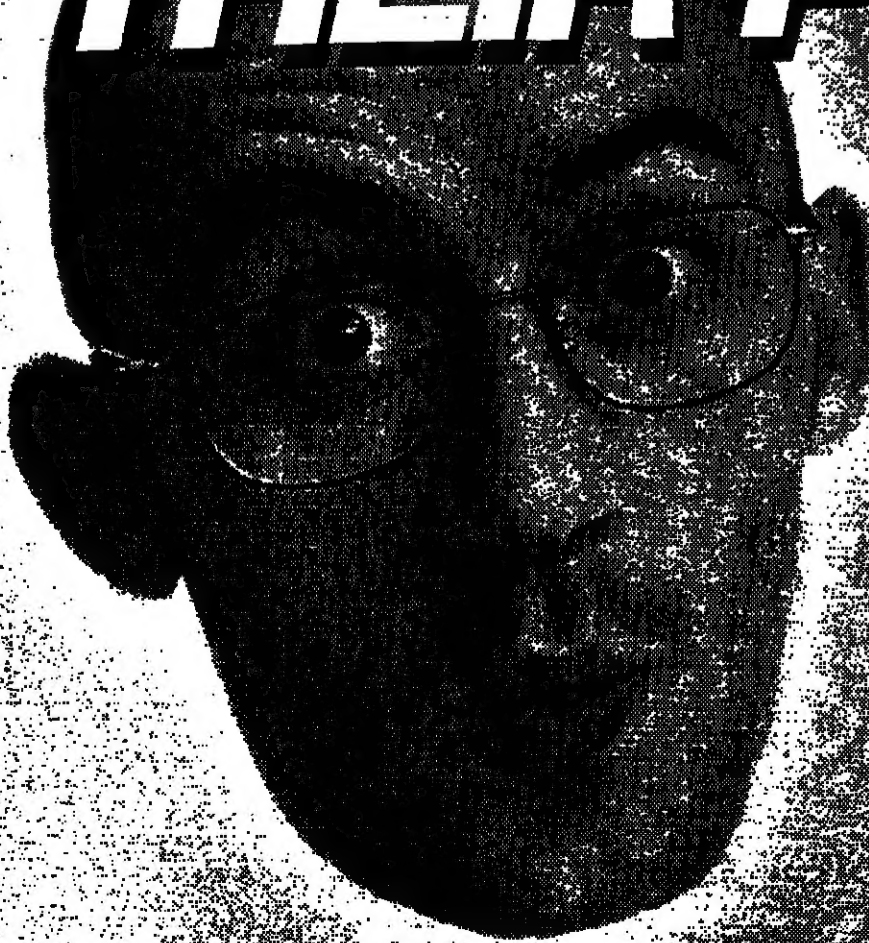
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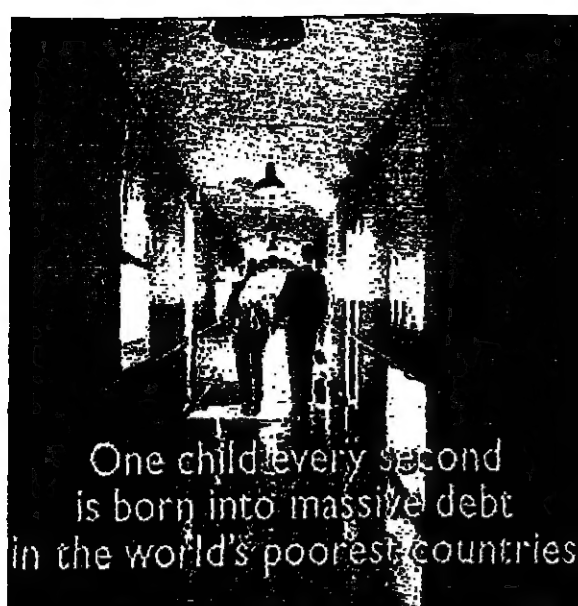
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Germany	13p	28p	54%	New Zealand	27p	49p	45%
Hong Kong	27p	58p	53%	South Africa	35p	79p	56%
India	45p/54p	£1.20	59%	Spain	23p	36p	36%
Ireland	13p	23p	43%	Switzerland	20p	28p	28%
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# Charity stunned by ban on TV advert



Stills, above and right, from Christian Aid's commercials

Christian Aid's campaign to relieve suffering caused by Third World debt has been ruled to be too political, reports Carol Midgley

CHRISTIAN Aid condemned as "absurd" yesterday a decision by advertising watchdogs to ban a campaign that highlights the human suffering caused by Third World debt.

The charity pledged to use other media, such as the Internet, to spread its message after the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre (BACC) ruled that two advertisements breached Article Ten of the Independent Television Commission's code.

The commercials, lasting 60 seconds and 30 seconds, show sinister debt collectors snatching a dummy from a baby and seizing a syringe from a nurse, with the slogan: "One child every second is born into

massive debt in the world's poorest countries."

They were due to be shown in the new year ahead of the G8 industrialised nations' discussion of the debt crisis. But the BACC said the advertisements violated the ITC code that prevents commercials from showing any political partiality or being used for political ends. Andrew Simms, of Christian Aid, said it was ridiculous that it was possible to advertise nuclear power stations but not the suffering of human beings.

The advert was an attempt to illustrate the United Nations' warning that, without dramatic action to reduce Third World debt before the millennium, 21 million children

could die. In Africa there were countries that were spending more paying back their debts to the West than they were on their health and education budgets.

Mr Simms said: "It's about as serious as it gets... and it's about as easy to get people interested in Third World debt as it is to get them to do their tax returns."

"If it's political to raise the issue of 21 million children possibly dying through the inadequate action of the powers that be, then on that level it might be. It's a shame the BACC couldn't ban Third World debt."

He said Christian Aid would now consider "every way possible" to get the advertisement shown, from broadcasting it on the Web, sending

videos to campaigners to show in village and church halls, and getting it screened in the cinema.

A spokesman for the BACC said the advert had been viewed and it was considered that it violated the ITC code. "We have had no dialogue with Christian Aid," he said. Article Ten states: "No advertisement may be inserted by or on behalf of any body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature and no advertisement may be directed towards any political end. No advertisement may... show partiality in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy."

Jenny Tonge, the Liberal Democrat's international development

spokeswoman, said Third World debt was one of the major problems of today. "Every day, thousands of children are dying because poor countries cannot afford basic healthcare and education — because their spare cash is spent on servicing debt instead of helping their own people. This is an humanitarian issue as much as it is a political issue."

The commercial was made by freelance director Mark Brozel, the man behind the BBC's *Modern Times* documentary *Mange Tout*. He said he was surprised that it had been banned from television screens. "We wanted to make a provocative but rather subtle and witty ad that didn't take a sledge-

hammer approach to the issue," he said. "As far as I am concerned it is the situation that is controversial, not the advert." Mr Simms added that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and most governments agreed there was a problem, so it was not taking a controversial stance.

Earlier this year an advertising campaign by the Vegetarian Society that linked eating red meat to contracting cancer was withdrawn after the Advertising Standards Authority said it was misleading.

In 1995, the ASA criticised the NSPCC, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the International Fund for Animal Welfare for "stretching the truth" in their campaigns.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NatWest £15,000 charges mistake

Graham Walker, 48, a former builder forced to sell his four-bedroom house in Walsall in 1992 as he battled to pay interest charges, has found that NatWest overcharged him by £15,000 over four years on his £160,000 loan.

After an independent audit the bank has now conceded that it overcharged Mr Walker, now a consultant engineer, of Chelmsford, Essex.

### Flight delays

Holidaymakers are likely to face more flight delays next summer caused by air-traffic-control problems, it emerged, after figures showed that such delays in Europe rose by 6 per cent this summer over the previous year.

### MP's damages

Labour MP Derek Foster won "substantial" damages from the *Newcastle Sunday Sun* over allegations that he had failed to give proper care and support to MP Gordon McMaster in the run-up to his death last July.

### Cook's tour

Thousands gathered at Whitby, North Yorkshire, to see off a replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour*, the ship on which he left the port in 1768 to discover Australia. The replica was returning to Fremantle after a re-fit.

### M-way protest

About 20 environmental protesters attempted to disrupt yesterday's opening ceremony of the 13-mile M65 extension near Blackburn, Lancashire, attended by Home Secretary Jack Straw. There were no arrests.

### Arts accolade

Sir Ernest Hall, a businessman who spent 14 years transforming a factory in Halifax into the Dean Clough arts centre, was presented with the Goodman Award by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts.

### Hit numbers

Callers phoning companies stayed on hold for 20 per cent longer if they were played music, researchers at Leicester University found. The Beatles were the most popular listening; sales messages were disliked.

## Alsatian licks bite rap by joining the police

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A CASE brought against a woman for having a dangerous Alsatian was dropped — because the dog has joined the police.

Anne Dent faced the allegation after her dog, Ben, tried to bite a visitor to her home at Harworth, Nottinghamshire.

But Jane Ball, for the prosecution, told magistrates at Worksop that the case had been withdrawn "because the owner has decided to channel the dog's interests in the right direction — it's going to be a police dog".

After the hearing, Mrs Ball said: "I must admit it is an unusual situation — a

first for me. The case became void because she [the defendant] no longer had the dog. It is unusual that she gave the dog to the police. To be fair, the dog was using its natural instincts. Now these instincts can be channelled to help the police."

A neighbour said: "I would not care to be alone with Ben. He could be boisterous. This seems to be the perfect solution. I hope he sinks his teeth into someone who deserves it."

A security guard was bitten by his own rottweiler when he slipped down a muddy bank as he chased four trespassers. Mick

Canty rang for an ambulance as he lay injured, but when the crew arrived they found they were locked out of the site, because Mr Canty had lost his keys in the fall, and had to climb over a fence. Mr Canty, 48, who works for K9 Security, based in Dudley, West Midlands, needed stitches to the bite in his arm.

Mike Brownhill, K9 Security Director, said the dog, Blue, had become confused during the pursuit. "Mick's had that dog since it was a pup and it's a pet, daft as a barrel of pop," he said. "He doesn't bear the dog any ill feelings and they are still the best of friends."

## Christie killer jailed

A COCAINE addict who stabbed the brother of Olympic runner Linford Christie to death was jailed for five years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Simon Williams, 32, unemployed and of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 34-year-old Russell Christie, who died from a single stab wound to the neck after a row over crack cocaine in Notting Hill, west London, last December.

The Recorder of London, Judge Lawrence Verney, said that, while Christie was "quite prepared for violence", he had lost his life. He sentenced Williams to four years and three months for the manslaughter of Christie, and to nine months for actual bodily harm to a London taxi driver.

## Songbird Two cleared of wild bird bloodbath

BY JOHN VINCENT

FOR decades they have been condemned without a fair trial. But now research has cleared the magpie and the sparrowhawk of devastating Britain's population of small birds.

A rise in numbers of the two predators over the past 25 years has coincided with major declines in populations of bullfinch, skylark, linnet, reed bunting, song thrush and tree sparrow.

Results of a new study, however, show that modern agricultural practices are the true culprits. Herbicides have virtually eliminated seed-bearing weeds from crops and winter stubble is rarely available. The reappraisal of the



The magpie: not guilty

magpie and the sparrowhawk will be announced today at the annual meeting of the British Ecological Society at the University of Warwick. It follows analysis of data involving 23 small-bird species, gathered at more than 100 sites over 25 years and involving nearly 100,000 hours of fieldwork by British Trust for Ornithology volunteers for the Joint Nature

Conservation Committee. David Thomson, senior author of the report by the BTO and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "There were thousands of examples and we could find no direct relationship between the increase in predators and the decline in small birds. In essence, the magpie and the sparrowhawk have been found not guilty."

BTO figures already published reveal that magpie and sparrowhawk populations have tripled in 25 years, coinciding with massive declines in numbers of bullfinches (down 76 per cent), linnets (52 per cent), tree sparrows (69 per cent), skylarks (58 per cent), song thrushes (73 per cent) and reed buntings (61 per cent).

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# Lawyers' walkout leaves Carlos in trial limelight

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band yesterday, after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust.

Carlos, 48, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, stands accused of shooting two French Secret Service agents and their Lebanese informer in 1975.

No fewer than 29 lawyers have been advising Carlos on legal strategy, but from the start of his trial the accused terrorist mastermind has left no doubt that intends to manage his own, highly eccentric defence.

His lawyer, Isabelle Coutant-Peyre, argued that the trial should be called off immediately because Carlos had been "illegally" snatched from Sudan by French agents in 1974.

After Yves Corneloup, the presiding judge, rejected the defence appeal, Mme Coutant-Peyre announced she was withdrawing from the case, along with her two fellow defence lawyers. "Your deci-

sion is contrary to the principles I am sworn to defend," the lawyer said. Judge Corneloup ordered her to continue representing Carlos, but she refused, and may now face disciplinary action by the court.

Carlos spent three years in solitary confinement in the run-up to the trial, and seemed quite unfazed to be left in legal isolation after the latest act of courtroom melodrama in what is building up to be one of the strangest legal cases of recent times.

Since French procedure calls for defendants to be represented, the court, after a recess, appointed a new attorney to defend Carlos.

Defending himself from the dock with typical gusto, Carlos launched into a fresh flurry of objections, accusing Judge Corneloup of a conflict of interest and insisting that the 1975 killings were the fault of Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

"These policemen were sent to the slaughterhouse by Israeli agents," the Venezuelan-born Carlos declared,

speaking French with an almost impenetrable Spanish accent.

He also argued that Judge Corneloup should be disqualified from presiding since earlier in his career, he had investigated a 1979 bombing for which Carlos was held responsible.

Carlos said that Judge Corneloup had also carried out an inquiry into the 1983 bombing of a Paris restaurant in which Françoise Rudelski, the head of the terrorist victims' support group SOS Attentats, was injured.

SOS Attentats is representing the families of the men murdered in 1975 as civil plaintiffs, and on the opening day of the trial last Friday Carlos argued that the group was "Zionist, racist and revisionist" and should be prevented from participating.

Judge Corneloup, whose tolerance of Carlos's theatrical tendencies may be wearing thin, rejected that appeal and flatly refused to halt the trial, pointing out that his capture had already been approved by France's highest court.



Homeless Russian men sleeping in Moscow yesterday after the city suffered its coldest mid-December night in a century as the temperature fell to -27C (-17F). Four people died, 160 were taken to hospital and schools were forced to shut.

# Jobless Germans drown misery in sangria dreams

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

SANGRIA, it seems, is the opiate of the German worker. Elbowing their way into the discos and clubs of the Ruhr, tens of thousands of youths are crowding into Mallorca parties which reproduce all the dubious pleasures of the El Arenal resort wet T-shirt and beer-belly contests and, of course, sangria drunk from plastic buckets with long straws.

The reason for this strange cult is the phenomenal success of a film, *Ballermann 6*, which is that rare thing, a German comedy hit. One million Germans saw it in the first five days after its release, two million people had seen it after five weeks.

Viewers imitate the heroes by turning up at the cinemas in wet, grey industrial cities, wearing Bermuda shorts, straw hats and sandals, clutching six-packs of beer, ready to wage popcorn battles and burp their way through the film.

*Ballermann 6* does for Spain what *Trainspotting* did for steam engines: very little. It takes its name from Beach Number Six in El Arenal, which has developed a reputation for a specific brand of alcoholic anarchy. More than 2.5 million Germans a year now head on Mallorca, which has barely 600,000 inhabitants. Once, the island was clearly divided between British and German holidaymakers, with some towns, streets and hotels ethnically segregated. But the British are in retreat and streets are dominated by German sausage stands, beer halls and German dentists, hairdressers and notaries.

The real division nowadays is between the heavily protected celebrity residents

— Michael Douglas, Claudia Schiffer, Boris Becker all have a foothold — and the concrete silos of the package resorts.

So extensive is the German colonisation — *Der Spiegel* magazine calls it the 17th German state — that one businessman has started a political party for German residents. Another German businessman, known as the Beer King of the island because of his hold on alcohol distribution, was recently the victim of a mob killing.

The *Ballermann* film has spawned Top Ten hits, T-shirts, cigarette lighters, baseball caps, schnapps bottles, perfume, beer, condoms and easily unfastened *Ballermann* bras. The film stars two working-class boys who stagger their way around the resort. They get off to a good start by vomiting on fellow

airliner passengers and one gets stuck in the lavatory. After that, the film is all downhill. The heroes nearly drown in a huge sangria bucket which also contains two women in bikinis. The serious underpinning of the *Ballermann* cult is that the morale of the younger members of the German working class has rarely been lower. Unemployment is at postwar record highs and is edging up towards five million. Trips to Mallorca are cheap, even for the unemployed. They fly over with their friends, eat German food, get drunk on German beer and then return. *Ballermann 6* celebrates this, and probably prods the memory of many who were too comatose at the time to recall what actually happened on the island.

It does for Spain what *Trainspotting* did for steam engines — very little

# Danes play host to suspected Bosnian war criminal

FROM TOM WALKER IN BIELINA

EMBARRASSED Danish officials have admitted that a suspected Bosnian Serb war criminal spent a week in their country observing last month's local elections. His travel arrangements in and out of Bosnia were made by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Ljubisa Savic — nicknamed "Mauzer" — is said by many international and local observers to have played a lead role in the start of Bosnia's bloody collapse. He admits being a pivotal figure in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from Bijelina, the most important town in northeast Bosnia,

which coincided with some of the war's worst atrocities.

Mix-ups and administrative bungles seem to have led to Mr Savic's invitation to Denmark as part of a group of Bosnian observers who left Sarajevo on November 13. A convert to the politics of Biljana Plavsic, the Western-backed Bosnian Serb President, Mr Savic was selected as a suitable witness to the democratic process by the National Assembly of Danish Municipalities. After being brought to the Bosnian capital by the OSCE from Bosnian Serb territory, he was flown by Austrian Airlines to Vienna and then on to Copenhagen. "We found out just about as soon as he'd taken off that he had a history,"

said a Danish source in Sarajevo yesterday.

Alarm bells were, meanwhile, ringing inside the Bosnian Government, which had been telephoned by angry Muslims from the Austrian Airlines flight after it reached Vienna. With no known indictment or arrest warrant for Mr Savic, however, nothing could be done and he continued to Denmark. Danish and OSCE officials helped to reroute his trip back to Bosnia via the Serbian capital, Belgrade, after Mr Savic said he feared he would be arrested in Sarajevo.

The OSCE has wiped its hands of the affair, saying it was asked only at the last minute to help the Danes.

The Danish source said a well-meaning idea from municipal authority observers to the Bosnian elections had backfired.

Back in the relative sanctity of Republika Srpska, Mr Savic said that he lived in fear of Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serb hardliners. He now heads the executive board of the Democratic Party of Republika Srpska, which is fighting Radovan Karadzic loyalists for control of Bijelina, one of Republika Srpska's few towns with economic potential.

His detractors — and they are legion — accuse him of widespread ethnic cleansing in 1992, when his "Panther" paramilitaries joined forces with thugs operating under the

notorious Serb warlord Arkan. Mr Savic says he helped to move Muslims to the safety of Bosnian Federation territory or abroad, knowing that if they stayed they might be killed.

Washington: President Clinton visits troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina next week in a Christmas trip designed to build the case for an extended US presence in the Balkans beyond June's scheduled withdrawal of Nato forces (Tom Rhodes writes).

Mr Clinton, who last visited Bosnia in January 1996, will tour Sarajevo and Tuzla, the region's biggest US base, during a whistle-stop visit. He will spend only 12 hours on the ground.

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# Shortages damp spirit of Cuba's Christmas cheer

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

NEWS that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement yesterday. This was tempered, however, by the fact that most Cubans have little to look forward to. Churches will be open to all, but only those with access to US dollars sent by relatives in Miami are likely to be able to enjoy traditional Christmas festivities.

Most traditional Christmas decorations are only available at a limited number of government-run hard-currency stores. Children's toys are a rarity, and priced beyond the reach of most Cubans, who are paid on average the equivalent in local currency, the peso, of about \$10 (£5.95) a month.

Even the traditional Cuban Christmas dinner staples, rum and pork, are almost impossible to come by in pesos. The Government is doing its best this year to make things as merry as possible by halving the price of pork and selling scarce Cuban rum and Spanish wines at rock-bottom dollar prices.

For the first time, selected dollar shops have decorated their windows with frosty Christmas scenes and stocked their shelves with plastic Christmas trees and Father

Christmas. For those who cannot afford a tree, there is a flourishing black market trade in pine-tree branches being smuggled into the capital, Havana, from the countryside. From a purely spiritual point of view, the news has been welcomed by the Vatican. Joaquin Navarro Valls, the Vatican spokesman, said he was "grateful" and "satisfied" with the decision which was "desired by all the Cuban people" and the Cuban church. He did not comment on the fact that the holiday announced by President Castro is for this year only.

The announcement is one of a series of concessions that the Vatican had been seeking prior to a visit by the Pope to Cuba next month. It could signal the Government's willingness to give ground on other issues. The Vatican is still waiting to be allowed time on state-run Cuban television to publicise the Pope's visit. It has also asked that four open-air Masses be shown live on television. Cuba has said that may be impossible because economic cutbacks have stopped daytime broadcasts on Cuban television.

The Government has so far not responded to requests that the Vatican be allowed to control the camera angles and

narration of the broadcasts of papal ceremonies.

Without providing any details, the state-run news agency, Prensa Latina, reported that President Castro had promised to help the Vatican to secure access to state radio and television. The President also promised at the weekend that the government media would publish and broadcast the Pope's traditional Christmas message.

However, observers remain sceptical. Despite the historic nature of the visit — it is the first by a Pope since the 1959 Cuban Revolution — the local media have largely ignored it. Since the visit was announced more than a year ago, the official party newspaper, *Granma*, has published a total of eight articles about it. After decades of being cut off from the influences of Roman Catholicism, many Cubans remain ignorant of the Pope's role as head of the church. He is expected to push for a greater church role in education, as well as permits for more foreign missionary clergy and nuns.

The Government officially declared itself Communist and atheist in 1962, although Christmas Day continued to be celebrated as a holiday until 1969. Catholic priests were expelled.

## Iraq 'stalling on arms details'

Nicosia: Richard Butler, the United Nations official in charge of dismantling President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, reported little progress in talks with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad yesterday (Michael Theodorou writes).

He said discussions on the core issue of access to dozens of restricted sites were not

over yet, but added that he was disappointed that Iraq had failed to fulfil its promises to divulge new information on its outlawed biological and chemical weapons programmes. "Biology did not present anything new at all. In fact [Iraq gave] a rather defiant statement that said: 'Nothing, there is nothing'," Mr Butler said. "Chemistry,

we are still arguing about the nerve gas called VX."

Details emerged last night of the recent executions in Iraqi jails of 800 suspected dissidents. Relatives are being asked to pay 250,000 dinars, the equivalent of several months' wages, to collect bodies.

Leading article, page 19



President Clinton with his three-month-old, chocolate-coloured Labrador, which has joined the family cat, Socks, in the White House. The puppy is not yet named

## Record number executed in jails of US

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

MORE prisoners were executed in 1997 than in any year since the United States restored the death penalty in 1976, according to the Justice Department.

Texas, which carried out exactly half of the total of 74 executions, was entirely responsible for the leap in the national figures from 45 executions in 1996. The state, which carried out only three executions in 1996, described itself as having a "backlog" of prisoners on death row until this year. Its total of 37 is the highest number of executions carried out by a single state in one year since 1930, when records began.

Virginia was far behind in second place, with nine executions. All of the 74 executed were men. Of the 70 executed by November 30, 44 were white, 24 black and two of other races. The last execution of a woman was in 1984.

Opponents of the death penalty yesterday seized on the figures as support for their case that executions are a "lottery" in which the numbers of the poorest and mentally handicapped come up most often. Donald Cabana, the former warden of Mississippi's Parchman prison, told *Vanity Fair* magazine this week that the penalty was "bingo personified".

The figures show the impact of the last year's federal Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which sharply curtailed the appeals process. The leap also reflects the growing popularity of the death penalty among state governments. Only New England is a liberal bastion.

The rise is supported by the majority of Americans. A Harris poll in 1995, when there were only seven executions, found 47 per cent opposed to the penalty and 38 per cent in favour; this year a Harris poll found nationwide support had doubled.



John Belushi: star of *Animal House*

## The booze brothers still rule on campus

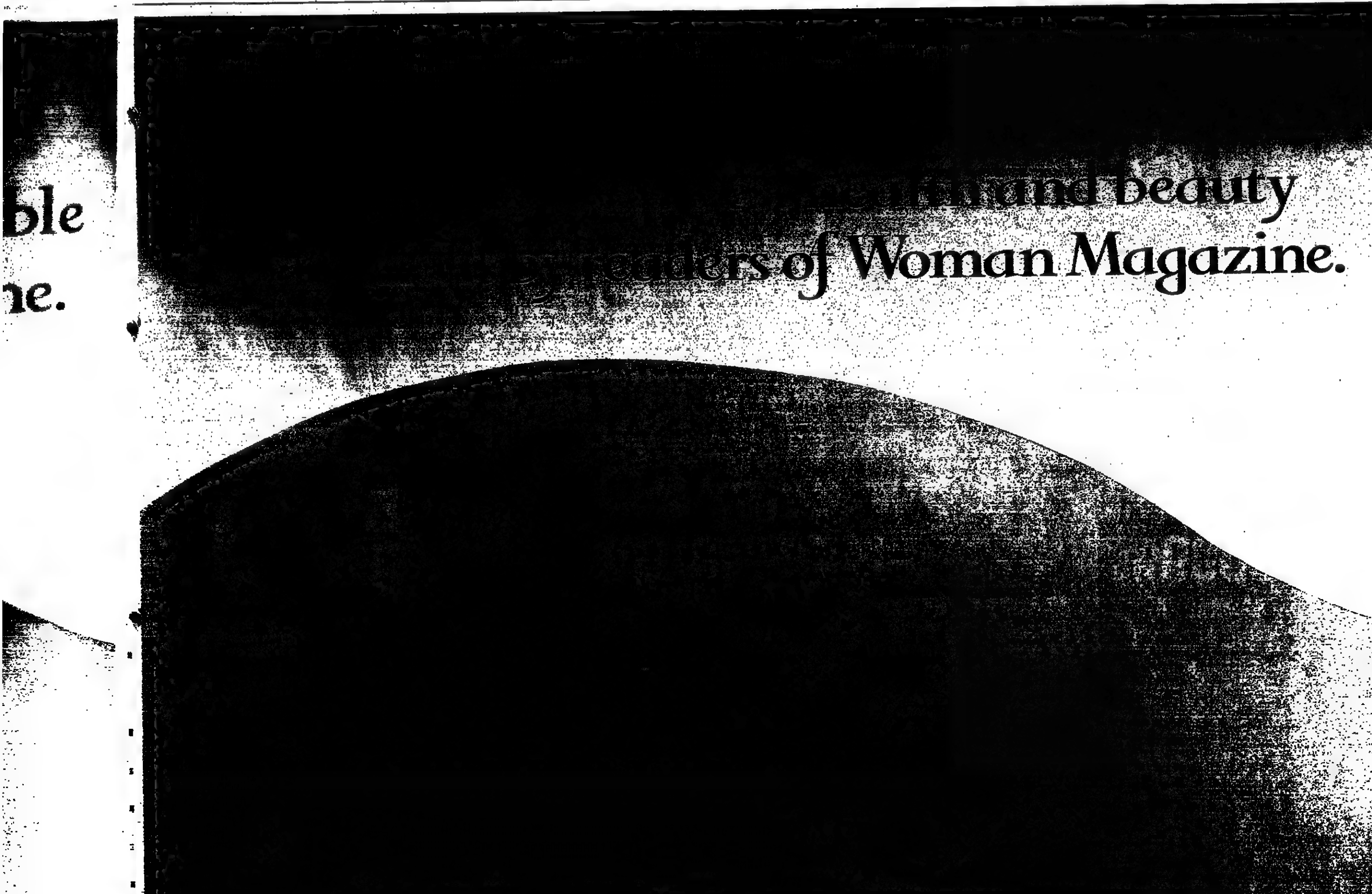
BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

DISGRACEFUL behaviour is flourishing in the fraternity houses of American universities. Members still drink and party, reports a disapproving team of academics in the latest issue of the *Journal of Studies of Alcohol*.

Far from setting an example, leaders of fraternities — named after the Greek alphabet — drink more, pass out more often, suffer more hangovers and take part in more fights than ordinary members. On this evidence, the comedy film *Animal House* deserves reclassification as a documentary.

The authors, from the universities of Cornell and Southern Illinois, defined "binge drinking" as five or more drinks in a row, and discovered after gathering data from 25,411 students at 61 institutions that three quarters of fraternity leaders had reached that target at least once in the previous fortnight. In sororities, 55 per cent of leaders were "binge drinkers".

Both sexes agreed that drink "facilitates sexual opportunities", with men holding the view more strongly. "Students see alcohol as a vehicle for friendship, social activity and sexual opportunity, and these beliefs clearly occur to a greater degree among Greeks [fraternity-members] than non-Greeks," says Dr Cheryl Presley.



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# Mandela hands ANC leadership to sharp-suited master of survival



Mbeki critics say he is Machiavellian

By SAM KILEY  
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Nelson Mandela steps down as president of the African National Congress today and bows out of daily politics to enjoy being a largely ceremonial head of state for the next two years, real power in South Africa will be concentrated in the hands of a man variously described as a "delight" and a "shadowy manipulator".

Pipe-smoking, sharp-suited, sincere and level-headed, Thabo Mbeki, 55, is much liked and admired by South Africa's big businessmen. A long-time member of the Communist Party, he received military training in the former Soviet Union, and now often dines at the home of a former M16 agent near Johannesburg.

His ability to sup with his former enemies reveals what his critics say is a shamelessly Machiavellian streak. To his friends, it shows he has taken Mr Mandela's mantra of reconciliation and compromise to heart. The truth lies somewhere between the two.

A dull but boring public speaker, Mr Mbeki will be elected unopposed to the presidency of the ANC on Thursday morning. Already Deputy President of South Africa, he has been running the country and chairing Cabinet meetings for

the past year. The top party post will ensure that he will also succeed Mr Mandela to the presidency in the 1999 general elections. Just as the ANC was anxious to ensure a smooth transition from white rule to democracy, so it has been keen to ensure there are no potholes in the road for Mr Mbeki. But there have been prominent casualties shouldered aside by the ambitious son of Govan Mbeki, who with Mr Mandela and Walter Sisulu formed a triumvirate at the heart of the party.

The first to fall was Cyril Ramaphosa, the former general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who became the

ANC's chief negotiator in constitutional talks with the National Party government. He might have expected to be chosen as Mr Mandela's number two after the 1994 elections. Passed over, he left politics for the private sector. Bantu Holomisa, the former military leader of the Transkei homeland, left the ANC this year in a row over his publicising of corruption in the party. More recently Tokyo Sexwale, the Premier of Gauteng province, announced he was also leaving politics after a squabble with Mr Mbeki.

His critics are quick to accuse Mr Mbeki of Stalinist tendencies over his alleged inability to tolerate

dissent and because he appears able to drive his nearest rivals into political oblivion. But Messrs Ramaphosa, Holomisa and Sexwale were perhaps also seen as being a little too charismatic for the top post, not quite team players.

When asked how he would fill Mr Mandela's shoes, Mr Mbeki's tongue-in-cheek reply was: "Well, I can't imagine that there's any such requirement. I mean, he's got very big feet. What does that mean? Does it mean we start off by going to jail for 27 years and then sort of graduate from there, grow taller, wear those strange shirts? No, no, it's not a rational expectation."

He said that, as it was the ANC "organs" which decided policy just as Mr Mandela has had to consult the "movement" before taking decisions, so he would be bound by the same strictures. "There will be no sudden changes," he said.

But Mr Mbeki will face challenges spared Mr Mandela due to the reverence he is shown by South Africans both inside and outside the ANC.

The biggest may emerge from within the party, which is showing signs that its membership feels isolated from its top leaders, most of whom come from the group of exiles who spent most of their lives fighting the white regime from outside the country.

## Albright signals softer US approach on Africa

By SAM KILEY IN HARARE  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, yesterday signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards African dictators.

Briefly stopping in Harare at the end of her first tour of Africa that took her to seven countries on the continent, Mrs Albright said she had come to the continent to listen. "I have listened, and I think as a result of that I feel very strongly that human rights and the rule of law has to continue to be the bedrock of our relationship."

"But we have to understand the local context," she added. "We make a mistake if we think every African country is the same and we can just organise [things] the way that we think everything should be done."

After an hour-long meeting with President Mugabe, she told a Harare press conference of "the great leadership role the President has been fulfilling".

The subtle shift in American policy towards Africa was reflected at each of Mrs

Albright's stops as she promoted engagement without judgment, the mantra that marked America's relationship with China during President Clinton's first term.

Her remarks yesterday came after strikes and rioting in Harare last week. Morgan Tsvangirai, a union leader, was beaten up in his office by five men and two women after he organised last week's general strike, which shut down the private and public sectors in a spectacular show of discontent with 17 years of Mr Mugabe's rule. He blamed the attack on the Government, and his assailants were identified as members of Zanu's youth wing. Few locals believe they will be successfully prosecuted.

The assault on the union leader and reports that the army was moments from intervening with bullets against strikers have left many fearing that future protests will be suppressed savagely. "Strikes are something that we must use very sparingly and responsibly. We cannot give the Government the chance to fulfil its promise to use live



Madeleine Albright relaxes at the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, the last leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa

ammunition to break up demonstrations in the future," said Mr Tsvangirai, recuperating at his home on the outskirts of the capital.

The success of the strike, which ended in riots after police defied a court order to allow peaceful demonstrations in Harare and fired teargas into the crowd, has caused panic in Zanu ranks, too. Outsiders wonder how long Mr Mugabe, 76, can stay in power.

Ranged against him is what he has called an "unholy

alliance". Private businesses paid their employees a full day's wage on the day of the strike, which also had the support of the conservative Commercial Farmers' Union (mostly white landowners) and the public-sector unions which, until last week, were staunchly pro-Zanu.

"How can you run a country when everyone feels alienated? Mugabe's arrogance has created a convergence of discontent," said Mr Tsvangirai.

With unemployment of at least 33 per cent, inflation over

30 per cent, the Zimbabwe dollar in freefall and capital fleeing fast after the announcement of plans to seize 1,503 commercial farms without compensation, Mr Mugabe has very little good news to shore up his power base.

"The man is either mad, stupid, or both. No one here wants anything more than a change of government," said Wilson Ndube, a street cobbler. "The rich hate him, but the poor hate him more. His Government is corrupt from top to bottom."

Many of Mr Mugabe's problems began with a campaign for compensation launched by veterans of the war against white minority rule. Their rage reached fever pitch when an investigation by the independent press revealed that the President's cronies had been awarded payouts of tens of thousands of pounds for spurious injuries sustained during the war.

Fuel and power levies to veterans were shelved after the protests last week.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Britons hostage in Nigerian job row

Two Britons are among a number of foreign oil workers being held hostage on a Nigerian houseboat in a labour dispute between Nigerian employees and Western Geophysical, the Houston-based oil exploration company (Victoria Fletcher writes). A third Briton was released yesterday from the boat, near Benin City in the southwest. The Foreign Office has named Paul Breslin as one of those held since last Saturday.

Foreign Office officials were confident there would be a quick and peaceful end to the incident. "None of the hostages has been harmed and they are all in touch with their families by phone," a spokesman said.

## Doctors to pay for failure

Karlsruhe: Germany's highest court said doctors who failed to perform sterilisation operations successfully could be liable for the upkeep of children born subsequently. The Constitutional Court ruling came in the case of a urologist who had appealed against an order by a lower court to pay maintenance to a patient after the birth of a child. In a separate judgment, the court ruled that a doctor could be ordered to pay maintenance if a child was born disabled after its parents were given misleading genetic advice. (Reuters)

## Malnutrition 'emergency'

Geneva: Infant malnutrition, which affects one child in two in South Asia and one in three in Africa, is the world's "silent emergency". Unicef said in its annual assessment. Twelve million children under five die every year and malnutrition is a factor in 55 per cent of cases. The report said the world had sufficient food resources to overcome the problem. Although linked to poverty, it noted that malnutrition was widespread in developed countries such as Britain and the US. (AFP)

## Rescue team finds boy skier

Bonneville: A six-year-old skier was found unhurt by French mountain rescue workers after disappearing on Sunday and falling 190ft down a crevasse. The boy, from Switzerland, disappeared while skiing behind his parents and sister on the Flaine mountain, near here. Rescue workers located the crevasse after finding one of the boy's skis. They said his fall was broken by a thick layer of snow at the bottom. (AFP)

## Ramos choice challenged

Manila: Renato de Villa, right, a former Philippines Defence Secretary, broke ranks with President Ramos and launched his own presidential bid for the 1998 election, challenging the man nominated by the President to succeed him (Abby Tan writes). Mr de Villa, 62, a soldier whose career path closely followed that of Mr Ramos, his mentor, said he would oppose the President's choice, José de Venecia, the Speaker in the lower house.



## Homeless rate soars in US

Washington: Soaring rates of hunger and homelessness in US cities are casting doubt on ambitious welfare reforms (Bronwen Maddox writes). City mayors are concerned by a survey of 29 cities by the United States Conference of Mayors which found that demand for food rose by 16 per cent in 1997, the largest jump for five years.

## Aristocrat's red-letter day

Moscow: A descendant of Count Grigori Orlov, a lover of Catherine the Great, has won election to the Moscow city council. Tass said. Stepan Orlov, an independent, became the first aristocrat elected to a legislative body since the Russian Revolution, the agency reported. (AFP)

## Black Muslim leader flees Jerusalem after death threat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the American black Muslim leader, hastily cancelled a visit to Jerusalem's Islamic holy sites yesterday and crossed back into Jordan after reports of death threats by Jewish extremists.

The Nation of Islam leader, on a 52-nation world tour, caught Israel's intelligence services by surprise when he crossed the Israeli-guarded Allenby Bridge from Jordan to the

West Bank on Sunday. Yesterday, after talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, in Gaza and an overnight stay in the Palestinian self-rule town of Ramallah, Mr Farrakhan left as unexpectedly as he had arrived, claiming he felt unwelcome in Israel and feared for his safety.

He said that he had changed his plans after learning of planned Jewish protests against his visit to Al Aqsa Mosque in annexed east Jerusalem, the third holiest Islamic shrine after Mecca and Medina. "If

anything should happen to me in this land, it could not bring good results in black-Jewish relations in the US, so in the interest of peace I think it is best that I leave," he said.

Israeli officials made no secret of their relief at his quick exit. The right-wing Government had reviewed banning him from the country because of his alleged anti-Semitism, but had declined because he was travelling on an American passport and Israeli-US relations are already strained over the lack of progress in the Middle East peace

process. "I think the moment he leaves here, we can say we are blessed to be rid of this anti-Semite and racist," said Danny Naveh, the Israeli Cabinet Secretary and a close confidant of the Prime Minister. "His meetings with the Palestinian leadership are proof of the maxim: 'Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.'"

Mr Arafat praised the black leader. "We are very happy to have this opportunity to meet our brother in our land," he said in Gaza. "We spoke in detail of all the difficulties

we are facing and how to push forward the process for peace."

Settler jailed: The founder of the West Bank settler movement, Moshe Levinger, was jailed for six months for assault and disturbing the peace three years ago in Hebron. Jerusalem magistrates also fined him 8,000 shekels (£1,400) as part of a plea bargain. Levinger was convicted of disturbing Muslim prayers at Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs and for blocking an army commander from entering the nearby Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba. (AP)

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# Asia appeals for global aid to steady markets

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE once proud leaders of the former tiger economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets and plummeting currencies, yesterday called for international assistance in helping to curb the financial crisis gripping the region.

Even as Asian leaders met at the summit here, the Malaysian ringgit, the Thai baht and the Indonesian rupiah fell to record lows, in the latter case over continuing fears for the health of President Suharto, 76.

In a bid to reassure his countrymen, President Suharto has been shown on Indonesian television, but he remained seated. Some Indonesians fear that their leader, known to have wanted to attend the current crisis summit of the Association of

South-East Asian Nations (Asean), had suffered a stroke. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, hosting the summit which this time includes Japan, China and South Korea, yesterday witnessed the ringgit fall to an embarrassing all-time low point against the US dollar. He called for greater efforts by the United States, Europe and Japan to ease global market problems.

"Despite the economic fundamentals of the regional economies being corrected and improved through the support and advice of the International Monetary Fund, the depreciation of the currencies has continued unabated," Dr Mahathir said. "This has resulted in serious recession in the economic well-being of

the countries, their businesses and their peoples," he said, hinting at the threat to social stability caused by the turmoil in financial markets.

As the summit got under way yesterday at the luxurious Palace of the Golden Horses resort — somewhat at odds with the austerity the region will inevitably face — the Malaysian leader, 71, said that every effort should be made to remove barriers to trade and to promote greater trade and investment within Asean. However, the grouping was not trying to establish a trading bloc. "The wealth of our countries is depleted and we no longer have the money to pay for goods imported from overseas," he said. Malaysians have been encouraged to plant vegetables in their gardens and conserve resources.

The IMF has arranged loans for the region totalling \$100 billion (£61.8 billion), but Asean leaders believe more is needed because currencies remain weak and investor confidence low. Moreover, there appears to be growing unease about the way the IMF is helping the region and Dr Mahathir believes that some of the IMF strategies should be reconsidered. He accused the IMF of looking at the macro-economic picture only, and not seeing the impact of its measures.

The three-day summit meeting was intended as a 30th anniversary party for Asean. But it was transformed into the present crisis summit with the region's financial turmoil at the top of the agenda.

President Jiang Zemin of China told the summit leaders that Asia's financial upheavals had "taught people a profound lesson". Economic development would improve once East Asian nations had learnt the lesson, and had made the necessary readjustments.

Business, 25



HMS Nottingham, with 250 servicemen on a rest and recreation sojourn, sails into the Victoria Harbour yesterday to become the first British warship to visit Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to China

## Hong Kong democrat cuts UK link

FROM JONATHAN MERSKY IN HONG KONG

EMILY LAU, Hong Kong's most vigorous and popular democrat, said yesterday that she will give up her British passport to run for the Legislative Council next year.

"The law requires all candidates for direct election not to have foreign passports. I want to stand for direct election," she said.

Hong Kong will next year hold its first elections for the council since the transfer of sovereignty to China. Since the handover the present 60 members, selected by a 400-member committee appointed by Beijing, have been passing laws. They replaced the wholly elected body which the new Government expelled.

Under the Basic Law, China's mini-constitution for Hong Kong, there will be a series of four-yearly elections



Emily Lau: will fight direct elections

which may culminate in 2007 with a completely elected body and even chief executive.

One third of the seats in next year's election will be directly elected in accordance with a proportional representation system which many here charge was devised by Beijing

to limit the number of democratically inclined candidates like Ms Lau to 12, instead of the 24 in the last elected council. The remaining 40 seats will be elected by "functional constituencies," based on occupation, some of which are very small, or by an election committee of Beijing allies. Twelve of the "functional" members may hold foreign passports.

Next year's council, like the present one, will therefore consist of many members defeated by democrats in 1995, although a public opinion poll published yesterday by the South China Morning Post showed that, if there were an immediate first-past-the-post election, democrats would win a substantial majority.

Ms Lau is determined to win one of the 20 directly elected seats, for which she must abandon her British citizenship, acquired in the

1980s. Before the handover she had often given a warning that she might leave Hong Kong. Instead she formed the Frontier Party, which stands for an immediately elected council and chief executive by a one-man, one-vote system.

In all public opinion polls during the past five years Ms Lau, 45, a council member until July, scored in the top three most popular political figures, and even without a seat she has maintained her constituency office and rousing political style.

A graduate of the University of Southern California and the LSE, until her election to the council in 1991 Ms Lau was one of Hong Kong's most outspoken journalists, a constant thorn in the side of British politicians of whom she demanded immediate and total democracy.

Letters, page 23

## Hun Sen's tanks pound rival's bastion

FROM AGENCY FRANCE-PRESSE IN BANGKOK

HUN SEN, the Cambodian leader, yesterday launched an attack supported by tanks on the last bastion of his rival Co-Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in the northwest of the country, the Thai military reported.

The battle for the border town of O'Smach broke out early in the day and continued amid fierce firefights until the afternoon, sources in the Thai task force responsible for border control said. "The fighting today was heavy," a military officer said.

The fighting broke out during an informal summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Cambodia had been due to join the nine-member grouping in July along with Laos, but its admission was postponed after the violent street battles which broke out in Phnom Penh, ousting the Prince.

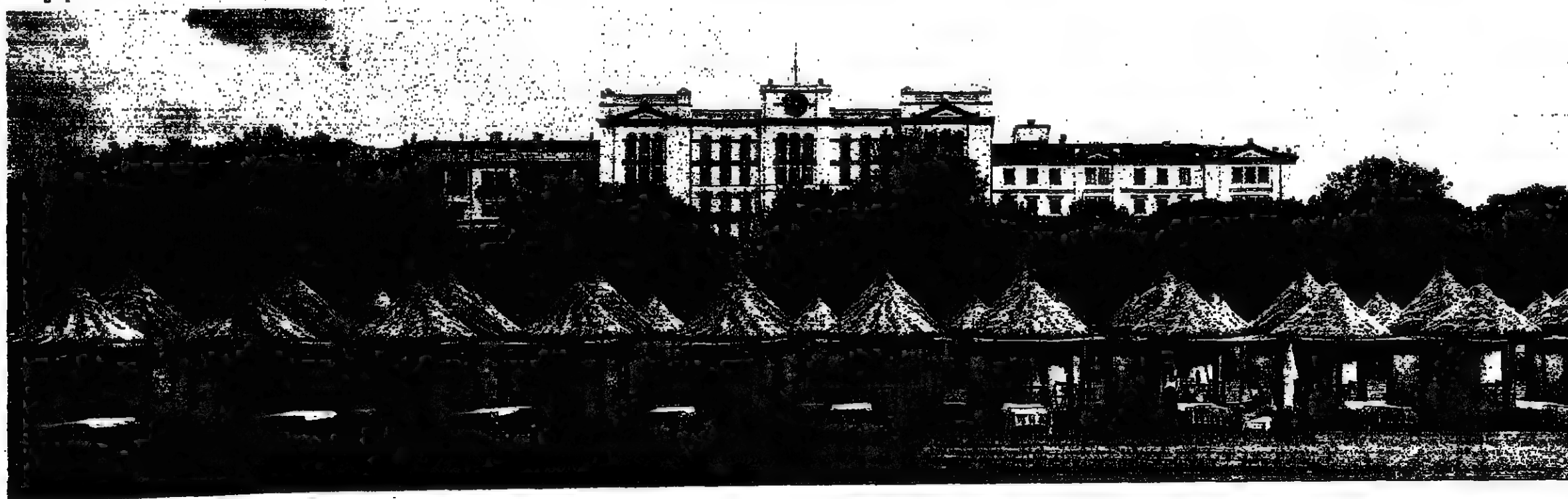
The latest fighting was led by fire from seven tanks under the command of the forces of Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, the sources said, adding "several" soldiers loyal to the Prince were sent for medical care in Thailand.

Five tanks fired on the last bastion of the Prince's troops in the stronghold of O'Smach, which lies on a hilltop straddling the border with Thailand. One of two other tanks which advanced a mile from O'Smach was reported to have been destroyed.

The fighting ended after several hours of heavy artillery exchanges between the two sides, the Thai army source said, adding that several shells had fallen within Thai territory. Casualty figures were not immediately available for either side.

The two sides began battling in July, when Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh after two days of battles in Phnom Penh.

Photographed at Sheraton's Hotel Des Bains, Venice Lido, Italy



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# Who will save this child?

South African doctors can't save Dorah's eyes. Perhaps their British counterparts can. **Bronwen Jones** appeals urgently for help

I have a friend called Dorah. She is three. They want to cut her eyes out. I know of only one way to save her from this terrible pain and loss, and that is to achieve worldwide levels of publicity that an injured child has never known. And to hope that some super-surgeon will be reached by that publicity and step in before it is too late.

Dorah lives in South Africa. The child of a child, she and her 14-year-old mother lived in a squatter camp with a blind grandmother and an alcoholic uncle. One day the shack called home caught fire. The seven-month-old baby struggled to breathe amid the flames and pushed fiery timbers away as they fell on her face. The heat burnt off her hands.

I have tried to write about Dorah before, with limited success. Many local publications react as though disabled children are another species and barely, rarely, worth a mention. Whether harmed by biology or poor parenting, they are seen as a distasteful subject. "Not our kind of story" echoes in my ears.

**She likes to slide and swing, to stroke a dog or feel a fir-cone**

I have been visiting the hospital where Dorah lived for a long time. Week after week I witnessed the children poisoned by paraffin, hit by cars and caught beneath the fallen security gates that fence so many South African homes. Some had eaten poisoned berries or mushrooms, or been severely scalded as boiling pots of water fell from the stove. There were infants with pneumonia and two-year-olds with diarrhoea so bad that they might die.

And the parents who bothered to visit left me unconvinced that they would care for their children more wisely once — or if — they returned home. One father stood there, clothes torn and filthy, making jokes about "tying a knot in it". He had a babe in the pushchair, another was being held in his wife's arms and two blonde toddlers — who had been burnt from shoulder to knee — lying in hospital cots. All four children were under the age of five.

More chastening still were the abandoned ones. The beaming, perfectly healthy baby boy whose mother had died of tuberculosis — no relative ever came to claim her son. The Zulu-speaking five-year-old who went blind after

meningitis. The family who brought her in never returned. She lay there asking: "When is Mama coming? Why is she taking so long?" No one answered her.

One day I was walking in the ward and I saw a big boy crying. He looked at least ten years old. The nurses — caring, but too busy to do more than the rudimentaries — said "Oh, that's Wilson. He was hit by a car and he's not quite right." They tapped the side of their heads.

I was handing out books when Wilson called me. "Come here, please," he said. I walked to his bed. "Fug me, please," he said. I did. Then he said "Now turn round, please". When I did, he gently put his arms around my neck and his legs around my waist.

As he clambered on to my back, Wilson said "Take me away, please". But I didn't. I couldn't. If I were to try to help one of them, which one would I choose?

Well, it would have to be Dorah. The ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan. If you met Dorah, you would be

scared. Or cry. Or think that she's too awful to look at. But she's not. She just doesn't have a face.

Dorah wasn't born like that. She was born bonny. By character she still is. They didn't want to treat her at Baragwanath, the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere, because they were so sure she would die. But Dorah is still alive and kicking. She has been fighting for survival against all the odds. A charred bundle delivered to the Far East Rand Hospital, no one but the little girl herself had faith that she could live.

It costs R500 a month (about £63 — or a month's wages here for a cleaner) to buy dressings for what is left of Dorah's eyes. She has a trust fund and there is some money to contribute to operations. But the wisdom, economic and medical, is to cut Dorah's eyes out.

Rob Douw, chief executive of African Merchant Bank and a Scot by birth, this week has offered to help to fund the cost of a career for Dorah. "We are touched by her plight and want to help."

Plastic surgeons have studied her photographs. Dorah's case has been discussed on the Internet. And while they think that they can make her an aesthetically pleasing false nose and eventually imitate



A friend with three-year-old Dorah Moekena, the "ugliest duckling, the most beautiful swan" in South Africa

muscle to give her fake lips that will allow her a better range of speech, everyone has given up on the eyes.

Dr Leonard Pott, an anaesthetist and one of the medical specialists involved in Dorah's case, supports the removal of her eyes for medical and logistical reasons.

To some extent the problem is money, he concedes, but his main concern is that the home where Dorah lives does not have the staff to spend more

than an hour a day dealing with her dressings. The staff are unhappy at the pain Dorah suffers when the dressings are changed.

"The problem with the dressing necessary to keep the eyes moist is that some sort of adhesive has to be attached to the skin," says Dr Pott. "It is alright, it pulls, it hurts to take it off and it itches to leave it on. It has to be on quite tight as the area is a high-risk site of infection. Dorah has already had low-grade infections in the area."

Dorah had no eyelids, and attempts to make some flaps from her skin to do the same job have so far failed because there was not enough tissue. The skin that remains on the surrounding area is scar tissue and has little blood flow.

"They would need to move the skin with its artery; it needs a pedicle, or root," Dr Pott explains. "The skin of the eyelid is fed with blood from the top. It would die off without a blood supply. It also needs to be able to open and close."

If a way could be found to reconstruct Dorah's eyelids, it would be possible to give her a corneal transplant. "If you can get help for Dorah from overseas, we would look at other options," says Dr Pott. "If anyone in Europe knows of appropriate artificial means to construct eyelids, we would like to know. We have models, photographs that we could send to them."

"Dorah has plenty of personality. She has a lovely character. She was neglected for quite a long time but then she was given intensive occupational therapy. Initially there was a big surge of improvement, but this was not sustained. There are strong reasons to take Dorah's eyes out. If we're wrong, we'll stand corrected. We don't know what else to do."

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Yet if you play with Dorah you know that she uses her eyes. She shades them from the sun, or from candle flames at Christmas. Light and dark are a part of her world and she uses what is left of her sense of sight to understand and learn.

By most definitions, Dorah is blind. But if any one of us had a choice between knowing whether it was night or day, or being plunged into permanent darkness, we would certainly opt for the former.

I took a radio journalist to Dorah's third birthday party and her sweet laugh was heard across South Africa's airwaves. But I cannot take a television crew because viewers are too accustomed to the Barbie-doll-cut to cope with Dorah.

But I wish they would. Because for a little girl who can hear, taste, touch, smell and sing, the shades of light and dark are as vital as all the other senses for her vision of the world. The lack of a nose has not removed her ability to sense smells. Take away her eyes, and this child will be in the dark for ever. I do not believe she can afford to lose even one sense as she grows into her uncertain future.

Everywhere in the world, the able and the disabled are kept apart. And in South Africa there are so many calls on state time and money that a child like Dorah is considered lucky just to get tender loving care. There is no money for a dedicated therapist to stimulate her senses.

Dorah now lives among mentally disabled children in a Catholic institution. She is as bright as a button. She loves music and riddles and running blades of grass between her toes. With a little help, Dorah can catch a ball and play pony by riding on the back of another child. She likes to slide and to swing, to stroke a dog or feel the strange shape of a fir-cone. Linking cause and effect, she pushes the keys of an electronic keyboard and sings the notes. Wider keys would suit her stumps better.

Like a phoenix, Dorah came through the fire. She is probably the most badly burnt person to survive such an ordeal. Now her future is a vision of anguish, looking into darkness. Surely some doctor must have the skills gained in a forgotten war or industrial accident that can rebuild the skin and bone around Dorah's face and let a three-year-old keep her eyes? In wiser words than I can pen, I

urge: "Do not go gentle into that good night / Rage, rage against the dying of the light." I don't write this as a doctor. I write as one who knows Dorah.

Donations to help Dorah can be sent to Victor de Grey, Barclays Premier, 16 Rose Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2UR, or paid into any bank to account 30299005, sort code 30-17-42. Cheques should be payable to A Charity Appeal Fund for Dorah Moekena. Bronwen Jones can be contacted by e-mail: rlu@frico@icon.co.za

## Best ways to kill or cure a hangover

THE more the Christmas party season becomes established the greater the number of absentees from the cafe that serves breakfasts. Those who are there seem to prefer coffee to their usual eggs on toast.

For many people, indigestion, with or without a hangover, is the inevitable price of late nights, rich food and rather more than the regulatory half bottle of wine. If the absent breakfast eaters had only managed some porridge or cornflakes with sweetened tea they would have had just what is needed to have made the office day tolerable.

A well planned evening may avoid any necessity of raiding the medicine chest on returning home, or of avoiding breakfast next day. The preparation for an evening party should start with a good lunch, followed by a glass of milk, some cream or bread dipped in olive oil. Fats before

drinking may not only reduce the rate of absorption of alcohol but could also prevent an attack of gout. Alcohol is particularly apt to precipitate gout if the drinker is starving before he starts at the bar.

Eating the fattier foods on offer at a party, even if it only means wolfing the smoked salmon sandwiches, delays stomach emptying and therefore alcohol absorption. Alcohol is absorbed faster from the first part of the intestine than through the stomach, so that the longer it stays there the less quickly the blood-alcohol level rises.

Relax and be cheerful at a party. Research published last year showed that people who were in a good mood while they were drinking were very much less likely to have a hangover than those who had been tense and grumpy throughout the evening.

A hangover is the result of transient damage to the nerve cells which cause a swelling of the brain, thereby contributing to the headache. Drinking also induces a low blood sugar, and it is the hypoglycaemia which causes the sweating and the tremor, and is also a factor in the headache.

The severity of the hangover depends on the type of drink as well as the quantity of alcohol taken, where

as drunkenness is only dependent on the amount of alcohol.

Rich food, alcohol and tension all tend to cause inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestine and the result may be nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Once home those who have dined too well should drink at least a pint of water and take some antacids, possibly combined with a painkiller. The standard preparations include those made of sodium bicarbonate or their main constituent may be bismuth, aluminium or magnesium salts.

In anticipation of a possible headache, many recommend a combination of paracetamol and sodium bicarbonate such as Alka Seltzer or Resolve.

Even a rich meal taken at night with only a modest amount of alcohol causes reflux oesophagitis, heartburn and acid rash. Gav-

ison, which floats like a soothing antacid raft on the stomach contents, offers great relief. People who are inconvenienced by the indigestion caused by reflux find that their life can be revolutionised by the taking of one or more of the proton pump inhibitors, such as Losec, Protonix or Zoton. Zantac and Tagamet are almost as efficient, and it is claimed that both are not only good at settling stomachs but may even prevent a headache in those people who are sensitive to some red wines or other dark drinks. In these cases, it is recommended that Tagamet is taken before drinking.

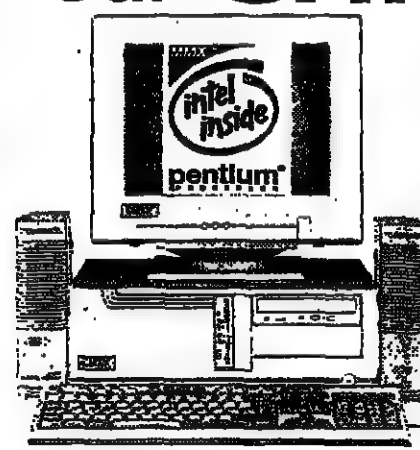
MORNING after coffee shouldn't be substituted for breakfast as it is a gastric irritant. In some cases, more drastic treatment is needed. Antacids and paracetamol can prove inadequate. Imodium to still the gut, and Maxolon to reduce nausea can be very effective.

This combination once enabled a very senior politician with whom I was travelling to look reasonably relaxed throughout a long meeting with the head of state of our host country, and it spared the politician the shame of having to make an undignified rush to the presidential lavatory.

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# Paula - like mother, like daughter?

A penchant for selling her story to the highest bidder seems to be a trait that Paula Yates has inherited from her mother, says Celia Brayfield

I remember having a conversation with Paula Yates in a pub in Chelsea round about the time she met Bob Geldof. She was working as a cleaner for one of my friends, who ran a funky employment agency at the World's End and recalls her as a fetching little thing but inclined to stand in the bath (fully clothed) while cleaning it. One day Paula was dispatched to scrub for the Boomtown Rats, Geldof's band, and the rest was history.

Having found out that I was a journalist, Paula wanted my advice on using the media to attack her mother, saying that she hated her mother and wanted to sell the story of what a ghastly person she was to the *News of the World* or *The Sun*. I advised her to forget the whole thing, because the story was likely to make her look a bit of a cow.

Paula's outstanding gift is for redesigning her past, so I doubt that she remembers my advice, let alone wishes that she had taken it. At the time it was a bit like talking to a wall, because she was so consumed by blind, self-dramatising, adolescent hatred of her parents. It was more like trying to reason with Harry Enfield's "Kevin" character than with a nascent megastar flashing her first tattoo.

I got the idea that her parents' worst crime was being more famous than she was at that point. I, being 14 years older than Paula, reckoned she would grow out of it. On that point, it seems, I was definitely wrong.

Right now, the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing Paula's way. Losing a lover, Michael Hutchence, a man well placed in the rock pantheon, and the father of her youngest child, is reckoned to be a trauma that trumps the plastic bosom and earlier episodes of ex-wife witchiness, such as chucking rocks through Bob Geldof's window. It also obliterates the shadows of doubt surrounding Hutchence's sudden death.

Finding out that your biological father is the oleaginous talent-show host Hughie Green and not the man you knew as Dad also appears to be an acceptable claim on the heart of the average *Hello!* reader - although it is doubtful whether any reader under the age of 40 appreciates quite how gruesome the Hughie Green legacy really is.

In the media, however, no tears are being shed and Paula is still on the Faustian blacklist of celebrities, famous for being famous, whose response to any life event is to sell the story to the highest bidder.

"She deserves everything she gets," said the columnist Richard Littlejohn this week on LWT's new newspaper-based show, *The Sundays*. The audience, however, ooh-



Paula Yates: the vacillating needle of public sympathy is pointing her way but the media are shedding no tears

ed and aahed for Paula as though she were an orphan kitten on *Pet Rescue*.

In treating what anyone else would call a private life as her act for the media circus, Paula seems to be a chip off the despised old block. The first response of her mother, the former showgirl Heller Thornton, to the revelation that her former husband, the disgraced television show host Jess Yates, was not Paula's father, was to say that she needed her agent's advice on placing the story of her own heartbreak.

The most depressing thing about the drama of Paula's genetic heritage is that all the protagonists are so tacky. Yates and Green were so vulgar that they would have been at home on cable TV today. Yates, by Paula's account, was unstable, but at least took the responsibility for bringing her up after her mother - as Paula claims - abandoned her.

Green, in the latest revela-



Heller Thornton: shares daughter's love of limelight

tions, was a sexually incontinent megalomaniac. Thornton stands accused of putting her social life before the care of her infant daughter and taking Geldof's side in the divorce. "How can she be so cruel?" demands Paula, self-orientated as ever. The possibility that

her mother may have genuinely believed Paula was Yates' child does not seem to have occurred to her.

Hating your parents is something that you are eventually supposed to get over. Usually, people do so once they have become parents

themselves, as this tends to be a maturational experience. Paula has now crossed this life-stage four times in 13 years - with Fifi Trisbelle, Peaches, Pide and Heavenly Hirsani Tiger Lily - but remains a *puella eterna*. Maybe the next stage - turning into the despised parent - will do the trick.

In yesterday's "heart-opening" to *The Sun*, she moans: "It gave me comfort to picture Jess and Michael jamming in Heaven ... now that's been tarnished and ruined." But her daughters have also lost a grandparent, by her own account a loving one.

The girls might prefer privacy - they deserve at least the right to choose privacy, rather than having notoriety thrust upon them in childhood. It can't be long before at least one of Paula's daughters hits the Kevin stage, renames herself Jane and decides she hates her mother. The difference, in this generation, is that people would understand.

Anjana Ahuja reports on men, pretty women and sex

## Men and the 50 ways they justify their lovers



People are more malleable than health educators think

MEN, it transpires, will go to elaborate lengths to justify going to bed with an attractive woman. According to a study conducted by American scientists into risk perception, men who at first said they exercised caution when choosing a bedmate, radically changed their opinions when faced with an appealing prospect.

Hart Blanton and Meg Gerrard, psychologists at Iowa State University, enlisted the help of 40 male undergraduates. The students were given information about nine women, such as the number of past lovers and whether condoms had been used. They were then asked to judge the risk of contracting a sexually transmitted disease or HIV. The men were led to believe that the women were at the same university.

Next, the psychologists

put a photograph alongside each sexual history. The students were asked to imagine meeting her in a bar and returning to an apartment together, where it was clear that she wanted sex. In some cases, a brief description of her personality and hobbies was provided. The students were asked to rate her sex appeal and likeability, and reconsider her risk rating, in the light of this information.

THE more attractive the woman, the more the risk rating plummeted. Subjects were more likely to engage in high-risk sex if they had information which, in their eyes, justified their changed beliefs. For example, if the "target" had eight previous sexual partners but played the clarinet and enjoyed classical music, the students would revise their risk esti-

mates downwards. There could be another explanation: perhaps men subconsciously believe that pretty women are less likely to be disease carriers.

Dr Blanton and Dr Gerrard said in *Health Psychology* that they found their results "disturbing". Their study, subtitled *There Must be 50 Ways to Justify a Lover*, used only photographs and imagery to induce sexual motivation.

"At no point were the participants led to believe that they would have the opportunity to interact with the targets, much less have sexual intercourse with them."

The experimental motivation used here was "weak in comparison to the one that occurs in the bedroom". They conclude that people are far more malleable than health educators think.

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# Look Left and beware, Mr Blair

Anatole Kaletsky warns  
Labour of a new coalition

It is more or less a law of political ecology that, however universal the popularity of a new Government, and however impregnable its parliamentary majority, opposition parties evolve to chip away its supporters and to create new subdivisions among its coalition of support. As a result, landslide elections which seem to confer a monopoly of power are almost invariably followed by equally dramatic electoral setbacks. These reversals of fortune remind hibernistic politicians that the concept of a "natural party of government" is one which democracy abhors.

When Tony Blair's predictable landslide was followed by the more surprising disintegration of the Tories as a serious political force, it became difficult to imagine what realignment of British politics could possibly undermine the new Labour hegemony. For Labour to be unseated, even in ten years' time, somebody would have to come up with a plausible answer to the reassuring question that Mr Blair must chant to himself instead of counting sheep whenever he suffers a sleepless night: what political force could possibly challenge new Labour as Britain's natural party of government?

Even to think about this question so soon after the Labour triumph may be premature. But last week's fiasco over single-parent benefits, which will be followed in the new year by far bigger battles over disability benefits, child benefits and housing allowances, suggest the possibility of a very unexpected answer. The real opposition to Labour, could come from the Left, not the Right.

I am not suggesting that Mr Blair might be unseated by a shift to the Left. Voters are unlikely to move any further left than they did at the last election, when the Tories were reduced to their lowest percentage of the popular vote since 1832. If anything, a modest drift back to the Right is more likely.

What, then, is the threat to new Labour? It is that voters will stay exactly where they are, but that Mr Blair will move so far to the Right that he leaves them high and dry, with nobody to carry out the policies they thought they were supporting in the last election. By the laws of political ecology, political factions will then realign to build coalitions around these disenfranchised voters until the point is reached when support for Government and Opposition is back roughly in balance. The outcome could be a free-market Labour Party, which is clearly of the libertarian Right, as in New Zealand, opposed on the Left by a coalition of social democratic Liberals and paternalistic "One Nation" Tories.

The Left in this context can be simply defined as the political direction that favours higher spending on welfare, education, health and other public goods, financed, if necessary, by higher taxes. The Right, by contrast, follows the guiding principle of the Thatcher and Reagan period: that government should be down as far as possible on

both public spending and taxes, at least as a proportion of national income.

Under this definition of political polarities, the possibility of a major realignment becomes clearer. First, it is notable that the last election produced a decisively left-wing outcome in this sense. Whatever Mr Blair may have said about his intentions on taxes and public spending, 86 per cent of voters (according to Gallup) believed that Labour would raise taxes. And given that the Liberal Democrats were absolutely explicit about their desire to raise taxes, 69 per cent of the electorate supported parties identified with higher tax.

How, then, does Mr Blair explain his refusal to give these voters what they expected and presumably wanted? The Government's spending restrictions are tighter than any actually achieved by the Tories. To explain his tightfistedness, Mr Blair continually claims that "there is no money" and that "tough spending targets" have to be met.

But spending targets have no objective validity. They were set by a hated Tory Government. And the claim that the Government is short of money is refuted by the Treasury's own figures. Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrat economic spokesman, has cleverly (and accurately) interpreted these to show a potential "war chest" of at least £50 billion available for a public spending or tax-cutting spree in the last year of the Parliament.

Barring another episode of economic mismanagement comparable to the ERM disaster, large amounts of money should therefore be available by the end of the Parliament. This money could either be given away as tax cuts or spent on improving public services, even without any further cutbacks in welfare benefits, student grants, or other draconian reforms. And even if there were no extra money available, the Government would always have the option of raising taxes.

This is a point which the Liberal Democrats are starting to get across to the public. And even some Tories could join the attack on new Labour from the Left. Just as John Redwood was able to open a populist flank against John Major by promising to save cottage hospitals, William Hague could, if he were sufficiently nimble, attack new Labour on disability benefits (which, after all, increased massively under the Tories). He could also try to inoculate voters against the pre-election bribery planned for the second half of the Parliament.

Should the Government be allowed to slash public services today to accumulate a war chest for buying votes just before the election — especially if today's cuts irreparably damage established institutions or inflict hardship on those in greatest need?

In the years ahead, the Left in Britain — be they Liberal Democrats, Labour rebels or imaginative Tories — could certainly have an interesting story to tell.



"Hear me!" cried the Ghost. "My time is nearly gone."

—A Christmas Carol

## Let Santa be child's play

Father Christmas is losing his role in innocent family fun to become a stooge for emotionally retarded adults

Family democracy is all very well, but we have been forced to take a firm line with the junior members this year. We have made it plain that their parents are not yet sufficiently mature to accept that they are too old for stockings. Just because your chick stays up later than you do and has Size 13 feet, we tell them, that is no reason for anybody to go round questioning Father Christmas.

Certain concessions may be made — there comes a stage when a mother must bravely face her duty to slip in a CD of *Slap My Bitch Up* among the tangerines and magic tricks — but otherwise this Santa's not for turning. They can be as cool and teenage as they like, but we shall go on putting stock boot-prints and reindeer-chewed carrots by the fireplace, so there.

I confess this private soporific to offset the fact that I am about to say some Scroogey things. Because there comes a point when even Mrs Soppy has to speak out against the driving infatuation with the British Christmas. The latest example is the threat by a woman in Rochdale to sue Asda because her son pulled their Santa's beard and got an alleged smack. The employee says it was an accident and has now "asked to be relieved of Santa duties". The child has been given a large box of chocolates (let us hope for bearded men's sake that he does not get the wrong message here) but his mother is reported to have consulted a solicitor and considered litigation because her son is "heartbroken".

Bah, humbug. This brat is eight years old, not three. The beard-tugging was apparently caused by his confusion at having seen a town-centre Santa a few minutes earlier and being surprised to find another one in Asda. This forces me reluctantly to conclude that his mother is behaving foolishly. It is stupid to allow a child to walk around a modern British town centre under the delusion that every grumpy red suit and cottonwool beard is the same mythic person. Any parent with any sense makes it perfectly clear from the earliest age that the real Santa is a nocturnal, magical, rarely spotted creature and that the harassed figures in shops, parties and Lions Club charity sleighs are just "helpers" — adults play-acting for the fun of it. Small children spend half their time dressing up as Batman and are therefore perfectly capable of grasping

the concept of festive charade.

But there are far too many public Santas, anyway. A splendid American academic, Professor Jim Hoot, of the early childhood research centre at the school of education at Buffalo, New York, has studied his local shopping centre and pronounced that bringing small children to Santa's grotto can be a form of child abuse. The experience of being perched on the knee of a disguised stranger is distressing, especially when you can't see your parents. He reports cases of children panicking as they are thrust into the Santa's arms, and soberly suggests (God bless American academics) that when the child is under 18 months old the parent should sit firmly on Santa's other knee for reassurance.

A member of the local false-beard set confirmed Professor Hoot's view: "I remember times when I could feel the child just shaking in my arms," he said. And a store helper in one grotto where photos are taken said that the parents sometimes seem not to care whether the child is frightened or not. "They are brutal... it's like if they didn't get a picture they were going to beat the child."

It all gets clearer, does it not? We are the infantile ones, not the children. Before the age of commercial hype and emotionally retarded adults, the Father Christmas story and its international variants could take their proper place as a piece of affectionate family fun. It is good when parents give without taking any credit for it, and share in a sense of wonder and universal benevolence and saturnalian mischief ("He's brought you a My Little Pony? Eugh! I said I'd never have one of those things in the house, but oh well, since it's Santa... What's that? A whoopee cushion? Oh, the vulgar old man! Really!!") It is a good joke, and in some families is taken as such: the gradual dawning of the truth is accepted in

good part by the children, who then graciously permit foolish, fond old parents to carry on well beyond the limit of reason.

Nor need such fantasy be expensive. Here is an extreme example: in his autobiography *Bare Feet and Tackety Boots*, Archie Cameron wrote of a painfully poor childhood on the Isle of Rhum before the First World War, and dwelt happily on the Christmas his parents made for their seven children. A bugle would sound in the distance when his father had "stepped out for a moment" on store clothes in a false beard and Christmas Eve: his parents rose and fell, as if aboard a passing sleigh.

The next day the stockings would bulge, mainly with coloured paper and only a few poor toys. But Archie Cameron's parents put spirited energy into proving that a magical person had run through the house! Some-body's trousers would be tied in a knot, so 'he' must have had a sense of humour. All these diversions quickly made us forget our disappointment over the missing toys, boys we had hoped for but never really expected.

Cameron does not romanticise poverty, and nor should anybody. Yet he says firmly:

"We were not a bit envious of our friends' toys when we saw them in daylight; after all, anyone can hang a popgun on the end of a bed. There was nothing personal about that, but we had positive proof that 'he' had been in our house." "I do not believe in Santa Claus now," wrote the old

man, "but I do believe in a father and mother who, during those anxious and frustrating times, made every effort to ensure that their children had all the thrills and beauty of the Christmas season." Magic had been carefully made, and made with a genuine understanding of children's needs and enjoyments: of the neurotic, spoiling, spending parents of today, how many of us can claim as much?

Something sinister and unpleasant is happening to Christmas: not just the oft-bewailed commercial profiteering, but a worse change. It is dramatised by stories of parents brutally thrusting their frightened infants onto the lap of a shop Santa just so they can get a sweet picture. It is apparent in the idiosyncrasy of a family's threatening to go to law because they pretend to think their child's "innocence is gone" because a stressed-out store employee in a false beard may or may not have given him a well-earned slap.

The difference is that today the adults — having abandoned the serious joy of the religious Christmas — in their immaturity and sentimentality are colonising the children's. We batten on images of "innocence" and markish fantasies of childhood perfection because we, the adults, are fearful and rudderless and disappointed and emotionally needy. Sometimes we take it too far. To upset your real child for the sake of a perfect picture of him with Santa is a perversion; to resent your real child for spoiling your pretty, perfect Christmas tableau is little better.

This is by no means a class matter. Plenty of the worst offenders are the most affluent: the people who spend fortunes dressing their unwilling children in velvet and turtan to pose round the tree for upmarket glossy magazines, on babies too young to care about anything but the box, who sleep all night outside toyshops to bag a Teletubby so that no hope shall ever be disappointed. Except, of course, the hope that your parents might stay around and play with you.

Not the more I think about it all the tuckier this parental infantilism seems. I may even change my mind and allow a democratic vote after all on the Teenage Santa question. With luck, they will still let me have my way. Children are very mature about these things, unlike their parents.

## Libby Purves

## Journey's end

EMMA NICHOLSON, the Liberal granddame, is embroiled in a nasty dispute over the proceeds from *Katiza's Journey*, the book she collaborated on detailing allegations made by one of Winnie Mandela's former bodyguards. Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne agreed to co-operate with the author, Fred Bridgland, on the understanding that the profits would be split equally. Her share would be held in trust for Katiza Cebekhulu, the erstwhile bodyguard, whom she brought to England for safety in 1991 and who remains her ward. But Bridgland is claiming that Cebekhulu wants his money now, while Nicholson complains that she has been left out of pocket. The South African, who claims to have witnessed beatings and murders by Mrs Mandela and her supporters, disappeared just before her conviction for the kidnap and assault of Stompie Moeketsi. He soon re-emerged under Emma's protection. The book, for which Nicholson wrote the foreword, was published last month.

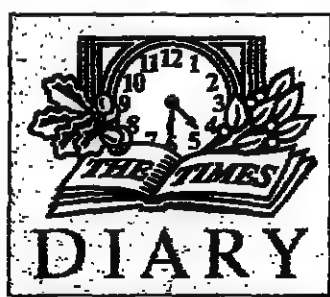
With a possible lucrative film deal, Cebekhulu is said to be complaining of receiving only "pocket money" from Nicholson and is demanding the book's copyright. Bridgland says: "Katiza has told me that he plans to return to Africa, because he doesn't have enough money. If he doesn't get the proceeds, he can't make a go of things." Nicholson admits that she has fallen out with the author.



Fee foes: Winnie, Nicholson

"Katiza is quite comfortable," she says. "He has not said this to me. I find it very unfair, and difficult to understand. I have worked hard on his behalf — but the debts we have incurred looking after him exceed our proceeds from the book." South Africa seems quite tranquil by comparison.

● DEAR Lord Irvine of Lairg may see himself (in jest, of course) as Cardinal Wolsey, but colleagues have a different perspective. It



seems his love of writing — usually stiff notes of complaint — has earned him the sobriquet "Samuel Pepys", after that diarist's addiction to the written word.

### Let's party

NOT since the late Duke of Northumberland ravished Barbara Carrera on his banquet have spirits been so high at Syon House, in Richmond: his younger brother — quiet, retiring — threw a party for his daughter Katie, 15, on Saturday. Partying at Syon is not cheese straws and weak shandy: 120 of Katie's chums — Charlie (son of the Duke of Roxborough), Flora (daughter of Jeremy Soames), Edwina (daughter of Lord Palmer) — were greeted with buck's fizz on arrival before further depleting the duke's cellars. Par-

ents kept a low profile. "We were told to keep out of the way."

● MORE party news. The cast of Hell — Ivana Trump, Isabel Kristensen — descended on Duns Castle, in Berwickshire, for a charity ball last night. Problem. There weren't enough beds. "We rigged up caravans," says a distressed organiser. "I took a group of 70 up on the train and I told them all to bring sleeping bags."

### Down the Tube

FOR a beefy performer, John Prescott's defence of Geoffrey Robinson was a shade wimpy. Why? Lab-



CHEAP prints, cheap behaviour. Samantha Fox (above, right) one-time Page 3 habitué, wants to play Diana, Princess of Wales, in a forthcoming production. In an absurd twist, Boy George has been shortlisted to play the Prince of Wales in the Bollywood film. "The script starts with Diana's death in a crash and then there's a series of flashbacks," says Fox. "I'm keen to get involved but the fee's the problem." One problem, anyway.

our shakers say Prescott has had it in for Robinson since the millionaire MP absented himself from Labour's woes in the 1980s. A ministerial turf-war over Tube privatisation has widened the split but the two have adopted uncharacteristic positions. Old Labour Prescott is fighting to sell off the London Underground, while off-shore Geoffrey is keen to keep the Tube under public control. Ah, friendship...

● A STRANGE replacement. Barbara Roche, Small Firms Minister, is to step into the shoes of Rod Stewart. The senior rocker was dumped as patron of the Royal British Legion (Muswell Hill branch) for rarely showing up and donating a measly £100 in four years. "Barbara will give us all the attention we need," says a legionnaire.

JASPER GERARD

## Your right to know — is it real?

Magnus Linklater  
finds Robinson's  
secrets still safe

My favourite story about open government is told by a former colleague who was in Washington researching a defence story. Having got lost in the Pentagon, he finally plucked up the courage to knock on an office door — and found himself confronting a five-star general. Before he could apologise and retreat, the general had ushered him to a seat, and announced: "So long as you're here, what can I tell you?"

It's hard to imagine anything similar happening at our own dear Ministry of Defence. But if last week's White Paper on freedom of information means what it says, all that is going to change. "Experience overseas consistently shows the importance of changing the culture through requiring 'active' disclosure," it says at one point, "so that public authorities get used to making information publicly available in the normal course of their activities."

This has a fine ring to it. The timing, however, is a little unfortunate. It comes just as a Treasury minister finds himself having to adopt the familiar tactic of suppression rather than disclosure in the face of an embarrassing story which shows every sign of spiralling out of control. Close reading of the White Paper, titled *Your Right to Know*, suggests that details of Geoffrey Robinson's financial affairs would, in fact, be protected under the terms of any new Act. Chapter Four specifically refers to the need to defend individuals from "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

On the other hand, any exchanges of correspondence with the Treasury could well be accessible as public documents, together with details they might contain of Mr Robinson's off-shore trust. Public interest is cited as a balancing factor to personal privacy, and the independent commissioner is to be set up to hear appeals can call for any documents he wants.

This emphasis on openness as the guiding principle is emphasised throughout a remarkably radical White Paper. It challenges British attitudes which have become deeply ingrained in local councils, in police stations, on quangoes and on statutory bodies. Can they be changed? It's hard to imagine Sir Humphrey telling a subordinate: "I don't care what the minister says, I want those briefing papers out on the Internet now!"

Converting the Sir Humphreys as well as the town hall bureaucrats is, however, the expectation. So far reactions to the White Paper have been favourable. To judge by the Campaign for Freedom of Information's checklist, it scores impressively well, at some points even going beyond the CFI's own recommendations. For instance, the campaign's "harm test", to be applied in the case of any exemptions (ie, would disclosure cause harm), becomes "substantial harm" in the White Paper — a significantly tougher definition. The CFI argues for a "public interest override" to set against attempts to withhold information; the White Paper states baldly that the public interest "is an essential element in determining the right to know."

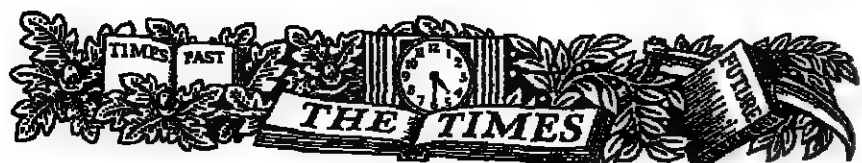
The exception — and it is a faintly depressing one — is the exclusion of the security services from any Freedom of Information Act. Given the sometimes maverick behaviour of Britain's intelligence agencies, it is hard to see why they should continue to be regarded as totally immune from scrutiny.

And how effective would the new proposals have been when applied to some of the causes célèbres of the past? The *Crossman Diaries*, which were eventually published in the teeth of Cabinet Office resistance in 1975, might easily have been suppressed under the present White Paper's terms. When it comes to Cabinet discussions, governments need "a degree of privacy," it says. The facts behind the sinking of the *Belgrano* could still have been secret because disclosure about operational matters may cause "substantial harm" to the national interest. And the Government could have withheld the famous DTI memo which led to the resignation of Leon Brittan during the Westland scandal, because to have released it would have been "random and premature disclosure of its deliberations."

All of these all took place during the Wilson and Thatcher Governments, both highly centralised and paranoid about leaked information. It was during those years that the Civil Service was declared "virtually 'off-limits'" for journalists. It would be premature to suggest that this might also become true of Tony Blair, who has written the foreword to *Your Right to Know*, endorsing its campaign against "the perception of obsessive secrecy" and its "corrosive influence."

Yet, given Downing Street's attitude towards unfriendly elements of the media, and the insistence on discipline within the party, nothing suggests that freedom of information is a natural instinct among Mr Blair's team. It too, will have to change if the aims of the White Paper are to be realised. The test for Mr Blair will come when I confront a British general in his lair and he invites me in to rifle through his in-tray.





## MINISTERIAL INCAPACITY

The Government is letting its case go by default

One of the hallmarks of a civilised society is that it helps those who are unable to care for themselves. In Britain, the disabled can rely on state benefits for support; in most developing countries, they are reduced to begging on the streets. To many Labour MPs, that is the end of the argument. It should, however, be only the beginning.

Those who question the increased burden on the State of sickness and disability benefits do not have hearts of stone. Claims of this type have risen faster than any other category — costing the taxpayer £23.5 billion last year compared with just £4.1 billion in 1982 — and the benefits now account for 27 per cent of the total social security budget. A moment's thought should find this odd: why, over a period when the nation has become healthier, should spending on sickness and disability have escalated?

The answer is that, for many, living on these benefits has become a substitute for taking early retirement or joining the ranks of the long-term unemployed on income support. Britain has a very low unemployment rate relative to other European countries, but it has more "disabled" people than it has claimants of official unemployment benefit. The teacher who leaves her job early, citing stress, may well end up on incapacity benefit, while claiming her occupational pension. Unlike jobseekers' allowance, the benefit is not time-limited, nor is it means-tested; though after a period, claimants have to be prepared to take a job other than the one they had before.

The rules for incapacity benefit were rightly tightened by Peter Lilley when he was Social Security Secretary. Now independent assessors, rather than claimants' own GPs, have to test the extent of the incapacity. And this Government has introduced home visits from a "benefit integrity project", to

check that long-term claimants still deserve the array of benefits that they receive.

No one denies that those who are genuinely incapable of work and at risk of poverty should be supported by the State. It seems unlikely that the Government would want to penalise them. But there are many claimants of disability benefits who have other sources of income and could afford, say, to pay tax on any money they receive from the State. In 1994-95, 70 per cent of those claiming invalidity benefit or the severe disablement allowance were well-off enough not to qualify for income support. This compares with just 13 per cent of unemployed people and 35 per cent of lone parents. Yet most disability benefits are neither means-tested nor taxed.

Ministers could also justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick or disabled. Only three months ago, the independent Social Security Advisory Committee, whose job it is to advise the Government, suggested that the burden of providing for sickness and disability could be shifted to employers, employees and private insurance plans. If the risks were spread among all employees of a company, the level of premiums would be affordable. Such an approach would abolish at a stroke the disincentives to return to work that are inherent in state benefits.

The case for reform is almost unanswerable. Yet, because the exact nature of the reforms has not yet been finalised, ministers have been parrying defensively, rather than going on the attack. If they do not fight back soon, their opponents will win by default. "Compassion with a hard edge" surely means helping those who need it, and encouraging self-reliance for the rest. There is nothing to be ashamed of in that approach: ministers should argue it with conviction.

## STILL STALLING

Iraq cannot be allowed to obstruct UN inspectors

Less than four weeks after he had allegedly relented, Saddam Hussein is once more challenging the work of the United Nations Special Commission (Unscm) in Iraq. His public promise that those teams would be allowed to fulfil their mission in an unimpeded fashion has proved worthless. Richard Butler, the Australian who heads the UN effort, yesterday conducted another set of predominantly fruitless talks with Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister. After that, Mr Butler offered a blunt and discouraging assessment of his progress. He had believed that his four-day mission to Baghdad this week would prove a "defining moment" in the relationship between Iraq and the outside world. That may turn out to be true but not for the reasons anticipated.

The central issue during the last dispute was the composition of the inspection units themselves. Saddam sought to remove all United States nationals from them. Some belated solidarity among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council did persuade the Iraqi dictator to withdraw that threat. It still remains his ambition to dilute the American presence. His failure on that front has now led Saddam back to familiar territory: the simple refusal to allow the UN access to areas of suspicious activity.

Iraq has, unilaterally, divided these into three categories: "normal" sites where external inspection is broadly tolerated but hardly assisted; "sensitive" sites where the UN may or may not be allowed to look; and "presidential" sites from which it is completely excluded. This, as Mr Butler has rightly argued, is in contradiction of the various Security Council resolutions that Iraq accepted at the end of the Gulf War and the pledge that it made to Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, last month.

This is only the most overt element in a continuing pattern of Iraqi obstruction. Mr Butler noted yesterday that he had learnt nothing new from Mr Aziz about Baghdad's biological weapons programme and was still uncertain about the extent of Iraq's VX nerve gas stockpiles. What Iraq has and where it is hidden remains, seven years after its initial invasion of Kuwait, a matter more of speculation than calculation. All available evidence is that Saddam Hussein is at least as dangerous today as he was before his forces were routed by the Allies.

It remains to be seen whether the UN Security Council will respond with any real vigour. Saddam has decided that he can afford to allow UN inspectors to stay in Iraq, but as little more than an inconvenience, while Russia, China and France continue their campaign to ease sanctions against him. Iraq will have realised that the United States and Britain are all but alone in their willingness to contemplate military action. That will have encouraged Saddam to continue with his chosen strategy of selective co-operation. He does not believe that sanctions will be tightened or airstrikes undertaken if his "palaces" — buildings that often resemble an industrial estate rather than Versailles — remain inaccessible.

The United Nations must support its own commission. The Security Council should not alter the arrangements under which Saddam makes limited sales of oil — or consider other concessions — until inspection inside Iraq is ensured. If not, Unscm will be impotent. The UN has suffered in the past six months as certain countries have softened their stand on sanctions. Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on.

## WEDDING BLUES

No room at the crypt this Christmas for the passed-over

Last week Tony Blair discovered that huge majorities can create unexpectedly big headaches. This week William Hague is finding out what Kate Moss already knows, even a tiny rump can be too big sometimes. Although he has only 160-odd, some suggest very odd, MPs left to lead he still cannot invite them all to his wedding in the Commons crypt this Friday. Although a wedding in a crypt may seem as bizarre a conjunction of event and venue as a Yorkshireman at the Notting Hill Carnival, the Commons' own basement has been the traditional backdrop for many parliamentary plighting troths and, in due course, when a boy or girl is born, christening the little Liberal or Conservative.

In choosing to marry in the bowels of Westminster Mr Hague and Ffion Jenkins are genuflecting in seemingly fashion to tradition, just as they are by including on their wedding list that unfairly mocked utensil the fishknife. The fishknife is one bourgeois creation where the benefits are obvious rather than discretionary. It, like the Teasmade, combines efficiency with charm and as such is an entirely appropriate model for Mr Hague's new Toryism.

For all the symbolism of gift and crypt there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make it onto the invitation list. It is a problem every couple faces when the congratulations flood in after the announcement on the Court and Social page — many call but few can be chosen. If

Mr Hague and his affianced had opted for a bigger church to accommodate their guests, Westminster Abbey perhaps, or St Paul's, then they might have been accused of delusions of grandeur. As Ffion well knows, social showiness is not the Welsh way.

A hilltop wedding might have been a Bardic compromise, allowing as many guests as possible to offer their best wishes under the vault of heaven. But lamely repeating the words dictated by a preacher while surrounded by sheep would have looked like a homage to New Labour. As with his choice of wedding venue, having eliminated all the superficially attractive options only one course remains — and if some MPs object then that is unfortunate, but they will only look foolish if they go public with their complaints.

Nevertheless, as with the single currency, steps can be taken to soften the blow for unhappy colleagues. Lord Parkinson has organised a party for all those MPs who cannot be fitted into the crypt — a feast for the passed-over. Perhaps a piece of wobbly chocolate wedding cake can be handed round all the non-invitees as an inclusive gesture — the disgruntled in the Tory party have grown used to making do with a constantly shifting fudge. Kenneth Clarke could take it with hard cheese and sour grapes. The rest of us will content ourselves with raising a glass to Ms Jenkins and Mr Hague and hoping that their honeymoon ends more sweetly than the Government's.

## Crime Bill 'attack on civil rights'

From the Director of the Howard League

Sir, On December 16 the Crime and Disorder Bill will have its second reading in Parliament. It includes three significant changes to the criminal law which have not been publicly debated.

The antisocial behaviour order is vague and could be used against people who are simply different. Local councils will have virtually unlimited discretion to seek highly restrictive orders using civil law procedures, leading to criminal penalties of up to five years in prison.

The detention and training order means that a child as young as 12 could be held in a youth prison, and the Home Secretary will have the power to reduce that to 10-year-olds. Girls of this age could go to adult women's prisons. The Government is ignoring the fact that in recent years some 35 teenagers have taken their own lives in prisons.

The Bill's abolition of *doli incapax* means that primary school age children will be treated the same as adults by the courts, expected to comprehend fully the implications of their actions and the court procedure.

This Bill could turn out to be one of the most sweeping attacks on civil rights this century, resulting in a dramatic use of prison custody for children and anyone identified as different and difficult.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANCES CROOK,  
Director,  
The Howard League for Penal Reform,  
708 Holloway Road, N19 3NL,  
December 11.

## 'Two-flag' Gibraltar

From Mr Mike Gilbert

Sir, Many years ago, when in a position of overwhelming strength, Britain twisted a foreign power's arm and took a small piece of their land purely for military reasons. In a more enlightened age we cannot face up to our responsibility to hand back Gibraltar, even though it rightly belongs to a democratic monarchy, an economic partner and a military ally.

There are difficulties but they are not insurmountable, and the population of Gibraltar may find, as thousands of expatriate Brits have found, that modern Spain is not such a bad place to live. The Spanish regions have a considerable influence over their destiny, economy and culture.

Those in favour of British sovereignty may say that to return Gibraltar to Spain would ignore the wishes of the Gibraltarians — a people who are of Spanish descent and who speak a Spanish dialect.

We recently handed back Hong Kong in the face of the prophets of doom, and that was to a belligerent dictatorship with, from our point of view, an appalling human rights record. It seems OK so far.

Tony Blair and Robin Cook (letter, December 11) should actively be seeking an accommodation with Spain to get the best deal for Gibraltar and give it back, despite the "little Englander" voices of Michael Howard and George Young (letter, December 10).

Yours faithfully,  
M. S. GILBERT,  
16 Brockley Road,  
Bournemouth BH10 6JN.  
mike.gilbert@virgin.net  
December 11.

## Hong Kong tourism

From the Executive Director of the Hong Kong Tourist Association

Sir, While Hong Kong has its fair share of wars, like any other city, Jonathan Minsky's report of December 4, headed "Bad manners and high prices hit tourist trade", is well below the belt.

His disparaging remarks about the local Cantonese community show scant appreciation of what makes Hong Kong the dynamic city it is today. As regards the cost of shopping, Mr Minsky had only to ask any carrier-bag laden tourist, let alone a local resident, to discover the huge selection of bargain outlets from street stalls to brand-name warehouses. The Economist Intelligence Unit, in its annual survey of major cities, consistently finds Hong Kong to be the cheapest destination to buy a basket of luxury tourist items. The level of service in our hotels is second to none.

As local columnist Danny Gittings remarked in the December 7 issue of the *South China Sunday Morning Post*, Mr Minsky's article "gave a uniformly one-sided picture of life in Hong Kong which most long-term residents would have difficulty recognising".

Yours faithfully,  
AMY CHAN,  
Executive Director,  
Hong Kong Tourist Association,  
11th Floor, Citicorp Centre,  
18 Whitfield Road,  
North Point, Hong Kong,  
December 9.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Hard choices needed to fund NHS

From Dr Ian Kunkler

Sir, You report today the Government's commitment in its White Paper on the NHS to provide an appointment with a cancer specialist within two weeks of a general practitioner deciding that an urgent appointment is needed.

This is a very reasonable objective. Increasingly, however, the first appointment is not with a single cancer specialist but at a multidisciplinary clinic, where the patient has the benefit of the opinion of all the relevant cancer specialists and of counselling from cancer nurses. Adequate time is required to discuss with each patient the treatment needed and its possible side-effects. Additional time is often needed to recruit patients to national and international trials to improve the results of current treatments.

A national network of cancer units based in district general hospitals linked to specialist cancer centres is being established to ensure uniformly high cancer care across the UK. To achieve this many more consultant cancer specialist posts are required. The number of new patients seen per oncologist in the UK is 560 a year, more than double that of Spain.

The Royal College of Radiologists has estimated that 290 clinical oncologists and 150 medical oncologists are needed to implement the 1995 Calman/Hine report on cancer services; and the recent joint report of the Cancer Research Campaign, King's Fund and Macmillan Cancer Relief calculates that by 2001 an additional 116 consultant posts in clinical oncology will be required to provide the additional 27,840 sessions needed. In addition 750 cancer nurses are required to staff the 150 cancer units and 420 for the 40 cancer centres. The resource implications for staffing and training are enormous.

The minister is rightly committed to improve cancer services. However, we have some way to go even to catch up with our European partners. Within a cash-limited NHS hard choices will have to be made between the development of cancer services and other competing claims for health resources. These choices need to be explicit and publicly debated.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN KUNKLER,  
(Consultant in Clinical Oncology),  
Western General Hospitals  
NHS Trust,  
Crewe Road, Edinburgh EH4 2XU,  
December 10.

## From Ms Heather Gage

Sir, Whilst the commissioning groups of GPs proposed in the NHS White Paper might seem to resemble staff model health maintenance organisations (HMOs) in the US in the sense that they both ration within a global budget, that is about as far as the parallel can be taken ("This takes us further down the American way", Peter Riddell, December 10).

Even the most frugal of HMOs provide an entirely different standard of service from that routinely delivered in the cost-contained NHS. The extra resources provide HMO enrollees with regular wellness care, custom-

## Holocaust claims

From Mr W. D. Rothenberg

Sir, A small number of very elderly impoverished victims of the Holocaust have recently been able to claim very modest pensions from the German Government under what is known as the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund, the Harshard Fund. Impoverished Holocaust victims — and not others — are entitled to claim monthly payments and some have started to receive DM500 (say £170) a month.

Sadly, the poorest of these victims are now seeing the benefits from these payments flow straight to the British Government, as their social security benefits, ie, income support and council tax reductions, are clawed back. In

## Christmas aisles

From the General Secretary of the National Secular Society

Sir, The investors and staff of Asda plc (report, December 8, letter, December 10) did not join the organisation to proselytise on behalf of a religion. They and customers should object to a plc mounting this inappropriate (and to some offensive) rite in a multicultural society in which the majority are not practising Christians.

Yours sincerely,  
K. PORTEOUS WOOD,  
General Secretary,  
National Secular Society,  
Bradlaugh House,  
47 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8SP,  
December 11.

## Male bonding

From Mr Robert Philp

Sir, Paul Hoggart's somewhat improbable comparison (Magazine, December 6) between James Bond (new-style) and Tony Blair is given added interest by the fact that Bond and Blair attended the same school.

It is reasonably well known that Tony Blair went to Fettes, but in *You Only Live Twice* Ian Fleming records that Bond started at Eton but, after

ised screening and counselling, unhurried consultations, access to specialists, fast attention to ill-health, lower premature mortality from life-threatening diseases and a feeling that something is being done about a health problem rather than a feeling that care is being denied or delayed because it cannot be afforded.

But the whole health culture is different in the US. The average insured American is better informed about health issues, and much less deferential to providers than his British counterpart. And American practitioners never forget that their patients have (and exercise) choice in healthcare.

Managed care is now cost-effectiveness orientated and has introduced cost-conserving procedures, within the bounds permitted by the watchful and influential consumer groups. Beyond that, expenditures are demand-led; evidence of a willingness to pay that is not directly identifiable in the British system. Regulating standards, target-setting and "name and shame" tactics within the NHS can only ever be partially successful at improving quality, and are inadequate substitutes for the pressures that could be applied by an empowered patient population.

Yours sincerely,  
HEATHER GAGE,  
University of Surrey,  
Department of Economics,  
Guildford GU2 5XH,  
December 11.

## From Mr I. K. Whitehead

Sir, Two observations spring to mind on the Government's White Paper. The first is that one internal market is to be replaced by another, seeking to build on the first: it is not a dismantling of the old reforms.

The second is the unwieldiness of the new GP commissioning groups: decisions will be taken further away from the patients.

Hopefully there will be some fine-tuning in Parliament before the White Paper enters the statute book.

Yours sincerely,  
IAN WHITEHEAD  
(Adviser, Downing Street  
Policy Unit, 1988-90),  
2538 Willow Way,  
Sacramento, CA 95608,  
everton@cwnet.com  
December 10.

## From Dr Clive Walker

Sir, When I started in general practice, some 20 years ago, the district medical committee would meet monthly. One of its members was a local GP. The district covered about 100,000 patients and the body to which the committee reported was called the North West Surrey District Health Authority.

Forgive me for a sense of déjà vu when I read about "new" commissioning bodies for groups of 100,000 patients.

Your sincerely,  
CLIVE WALKER,  
Weybridge Health Centre,  
Minorca Road,  
Weybridge KT13 8DU,  
cladwalk@btinternet.co.uk  
December 10.

at least one case, income support has been reclaimed for the previous six months on the ground that the hardship fund payments were backdated six months.

It is sad that when high officials from governments around the world have been meeting in London to discuss some of the wrongs done to Holocaust victims (letters, December 8), the poorest of them are seeing payments to which they should be entitled taken from them by the British Government.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ROTHENBERG  
(Vice-Chairman),  
Association of Jewish Refugees,  
1 Hampstead Gate,  
1a Freginal, NW3 6AL,  
December 12.

## Britannia's future

From Mr Jonathan West

Sir, Lord Callaghan of Cardiff (letter, December 11) may well wish to see *Britannia* scrapped rather than saved. No doubt, like Princess Anne, he fondly remembers many fine times spent on board, all, one assumes, as taxpayers' expense.

Like many others I would like the chance to look round the ship; perhaps its upkeep may not quite meet the earlier high standards but, unlike Lord Callaghan, I would not be in a position to compare.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN WEST,  
60 St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1ST,  
December 13.

"some alleged trouble with one of the boys' maids", his aunt

managed to obtain his transfer to Fettes, his father's old school. Here the atmosphere was somewhat Calvinistic, and both academic and athletic standards were rigorous.

The early application of rigour can clearly work wonders in one direction or another.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT PHILP,  
61 Inverleith Place,  
Edinburgh EH3 5QD,  
December 6.

## Questions of safe haven for babies

From Ms Philippa Tudor

Sir, Virginia Hume suggests (feature, December 10) that "the upshot of the baby Karli affair will be that many more women going into hospital to have babies will be terrified that somebody might come into their room in the middle of the night and take their newborn away from them". Having experienced this myself at one of the great London teaching hospitals, my own concern has been that women are not made aware of this possibility.

Fortunately our daughter, who had been taken by a woman whose own baby was in the special-care baby unit, had been abducted no further than the midwives' staff room, and the only apparent ill-treatment she had suffered was being fed formula milk. But the horror of waking in hospital to see the empty cot by my bedside has made me acutely aware that, despite my having been under the care of a brilliant consultant and equally brilliant anaesthetist, a newborn baby is only as safe as its surroundings. For my newborn daughter, hospital was not a safe haven.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIPPA TUDOR,  
121 Narbonne Avenue, SW4 9LQ,  
December 10.

## From Dr B. P. Guratsky

Sir, I reckon that no more than one baby per year is abducted from an NHS maternity unit; typically, it will be missing for no more than a few hours and will come to no lasting harm.

Extrapolating from local costs I also reckon that security equipment in maternity units over the entire NHS consumes well over £1 million per year, not allowing for staff costs or for the delays suffered by staff attempting to go about their business.

Priorities for spending money should be based on the actual degree of risk, not the degree of media excitement.

Yours sincerely,  
B. P. GURATSKY,  
42 Graham Road,  
West Kirby, Wirral L48 5DW,  
December 6.

## Home births

From Dr Richard Freeman

Sir, I heartily support the sentiments expressed in Sarah Johnson's article, "Safe, secure — and satisfying" (December 10). Our third child was born at home 16 years ago. It was only allowed because the mother contracted mumps two weeks before delivery and was too infectious to be allowed near a hospital.

Home births are an excellent way of introducing the newborn to its siblings. But, of course, only if everything is normal. The risks involved with home deliveries become much higher if intervention is required; and the trauma this may induce amongst the rest of the family, not to mention the mother, has to be recognised.

Yours etc,  
RICHARD FREEMAN,  
101 Castle Street,  
Saffron Walden CB10 1BQ.

## From Mr P. R. Ridgway

Sir, I was interested in the article promoting the benefits of birth at home, including the greater sense of continuity and family ties.

I too was born at home, in the same house where my mother had been born. Unfortunately the adjoining property has since expanded, and when I now point out to my children my birthplace, it is located in the saloon bar of the Fox and Goose.

Yours sincerely,  
PHIL RIDGWAY,  
27 Naverne Meadows,  
Woodbridge IP12 1HU,  
December 10.

## Blair's travels

From Dr D. G. Guild

Sir, With the Kyoto summit still in progress at the time, one would have thought that the Prime Minister could have found some more positive affirmation of his beliefs than the new logo which, as I understand, is to disfigure a Eurostar train (report, December 6).

Mr Blair could show that his devotion to a green future is more than "spin". When he goes to Brussels he could travel by Eurostar rather than by air.

Air travel has a high pollution content, higher even than road. And he might find that, given the short distances involved, he might get from the centre of London to the centre of Brussels as quickly as by air.

Yours faithfully,  
D. G. GUILD,  
53 Grange Road,  
Edinburgh EH9 1TX,  
December 8.

## Bones of contention

From Mrs Julia Pike

Sir, At midnight the Nanny State will truly have arrived: we will all have to have our meat cut up for us.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIA PIKE,  
Brasses Farm, Ewhurst Green,  
Robertsbridge TN32 5RH,  
December 15.











# Wanted: canny ITF entrants. Large rewards

## The story so far

Tell me more about this FA Cup league, then. Well, despite the name, it isn't strictly only an FA Cup league. The Tennants Cup games in Scotland count too. But that doesn't start at the same time, does it? No, the Scottish premier league teams don't enter the competition until January 24. So if I've entered a team especially for the cup, it should start off with English premier league players. Exactly. And it's probably a good idea to select players from teams with good draws. Such as?

Arsenal or Leeds defenders. Both clubs are at home to first division sides, and shouldn't concede many goals. Even Crystal Palace might get a home win against Southampton or Ilkeston. West Ham look comfortable too, at home to Lincoln City or Enfield, and could score goals. Hartson might be a good buy. But what about the magic of the cup? The unpredictable nature of the world's greatest knock-out competition?

Exactly, there is a risk. Wimbledon against Wrexham could be tricky — Wrexham have a great cup record. Blackburn against Wigan?

A case in point on paper, a home win — but it is a local derby. Wigan's cup final. So you never know. This is going to take some thought. And, while we're at it, aren't there a limited number of games? Every round has successively fewer ties.

Don't forget replays: if you think that, say, Portsmouth v Villa will be a goalless draw, with Villa winning the replay, then buy Villa defenders. But what if they were drawn away to Manchester United in the next round?

Well, the next round may prompt you to make a few transfers, certainly. But anyway, what makes you think Manchester United will even be in the next round? Good point. And the Scottish clubs will be in by then. Now you're getting the idea.

Hang on, though — in the semi-finals and final, there will only be four, then two teams playing... Eight and four, don't forget Scotland!

Ah yes, of course. But certainly only four in the two finals. So only eight of your team's players will be in action by the end.

It's the same for everyone, I'm afraid.

And last year, Falkirk were in the Tennants Cup final, but not in the premier league, and Chesterfield, a second division side, were in the FA Cup semi-finals. Well, that's... the magic of the cup. Thank you.

Jumpers for Christmas? There are lots of outstanding examples in this week's ITF lists — 37,788 places in the case of one team

The ability of teams to win without a manager is an oft-noted football phenomenon. Only this season, Sheffield Wednesday thrashed Bolton 5-0 in the interregnum between David Platt and Ron Atkinson.

It also seems to work in Interactive Team Football. This weekend's highest climber in the ITF lists, H. Astbury of Blair Gowrie, Perthshire, has not yet seen fit to replace Gerry Francis as manager of his team, Haddy's Hopefuls, but still enjoyed a 50-point week which saw his selection rise 37,788 places to 67,161st.

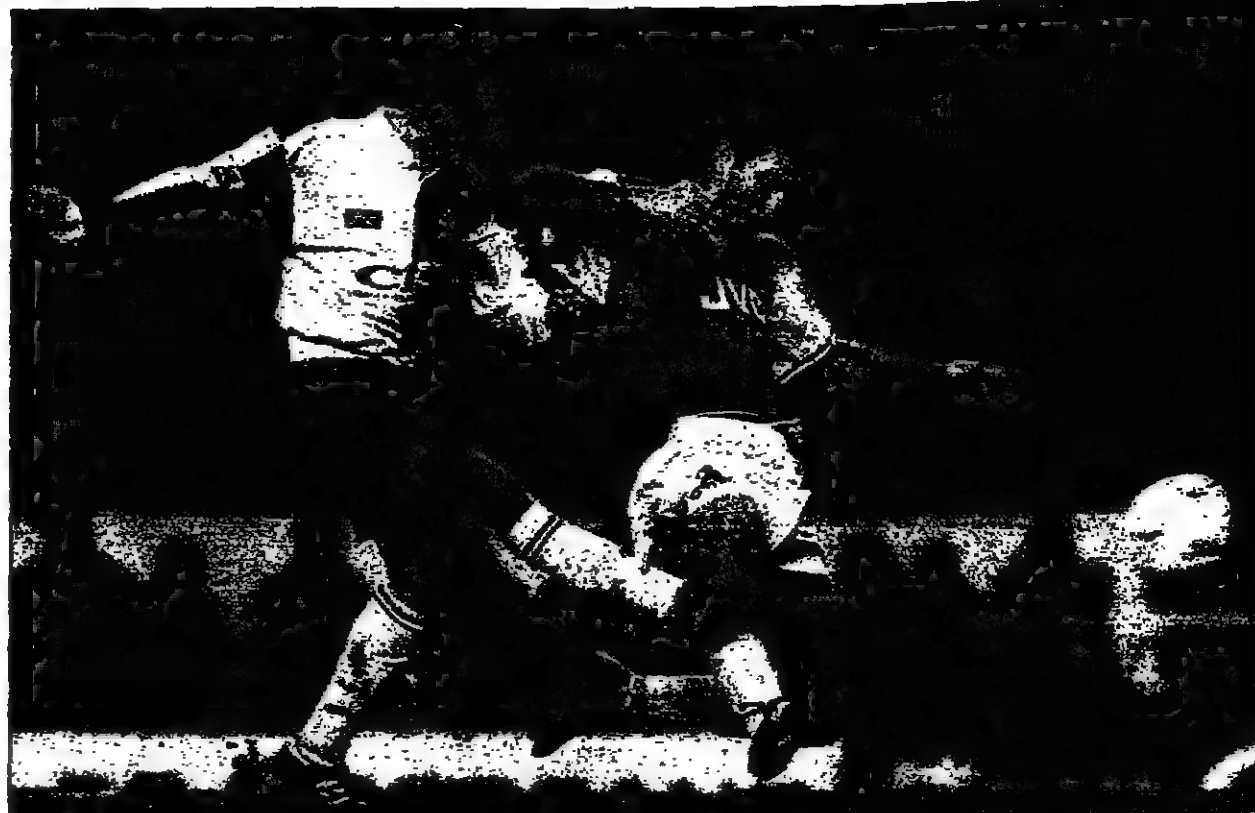
Seven of his team are Scotland-based: Jackie McNamara, the Celtic full-back, was his top scorer with ten points, although Sieb Dykstra, the Dundee United goalkeeper, and Marcus Hall, the Coventry City and England under-21 defender, who played in mid-field and scored his first league goal against Tottenham on Saturday, both weighed in with nine. Darren Jackson and Eoin Jess, each scored five.

Things are close in mid-



table. M. Gaylor, N. Bow and R. Shepherson, in joint 109,280th position with 223 points, all scored 44 points over the same seven-day period, and found themselves together again sharing 77,288th place.

Mr D. Clarke was the second highest jumper, up 33,621 positions with 49 points, but the same total accrued by an ITF entrant higher up the league resulted in a rise of "only" 30,122 places. The Christmas tree formation in the real world refers to a 4-3-2-



Kevin Gallacher in action at the weekend. Blackburn's FA Cup draw could see him on the scoresheet again

1 lineup: in ITF, it is an illustration of the relative density of numbers of players on different points totals; the higher you go, the fewer share the same numbers of points.

NICK SZCZEPANIK

## HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?

Call the ITF Checkline on 0800 444 043

By a mission, using a Touch-Tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much.

## FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (youths, students, adults). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1.10 per minute and are available in the UK only.

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## LEAGUE UPDATES

**ITF LEAGUE**  
£250,000 top prize  
£1,000 monthly prize

**STUDENTS' LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of £100  
Signed football and sports bag

**YOUTH LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of £100  
Signed football and sports bag

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of £100  
Signed football and sports bag

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 B Fletcher	515	Ab Fah	515
2 C Purdy	511	Kate Cosmos	511
3 S Brooks	509	Sandra Specials	509
4 S Whitfield	509	Small Business	509
5 S Reader	498	Sophie Reader	498
6 J Gardner	498	15 Chumbawumbas	498
7 M Hussain	484	Good Luck Malika	484
8 L Emery	483	Bugsey's Boys	483
9 P Johnson	477	XII Superstars	477
10 A Hemmings	477	The Breconians I	477
11 P Sloan	477	Paslo Ud	477
12 S Allport	473	Farmoor Pinks	473
13 C Purdy	471	Kates Upstairs	471
14 A Beatty	471	Harry's Heroes	471
15 H Irvine	471	Hill's Belles	471
16 J Peppar	470	Pepper Pops	470
17 P Bee	460	Burnble Five	460
18 K Thadall	457	Over The Moon	457
19 T Fern	457	Fantasy Wolves II	457
20 Adach	457		

## STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	587	H D G Is A Sad Waster	587
2 G Wilson	587	Flug Soldiers	587
3 T Gardner	533	6 Chumbawumbas	533
4 N Wheatley	526	Withridge is ill	526
5 C Marianneak	510	Janssen's XI	510
6 N Wheatley	501	A Tight Horse Is Fun	501
7 J Gardner	497	15 Chumbawumbas	497
8 Steven Shipley	490	Set Against	490
9 J Widgean	482	Father Shaboooboo	482
10 J McGill	482	The White Helms	482
11 F Henson	472	Sphinx's Intuition	472
12 F Ferguson	471	Saucy Sue Barker	471
13 J Frost	470	Variety Sports Inter	470
14 C Van Hough	466	The Boy Sprouts	466
15 M Tittertoning	466	Sphinx's Intuition	466
16 D Garrett	461	The Spice Boys	461
17 M Griffiths	461	The Town	461
18 J Givley	459	The Avengers XI	459
19 Z Teer	459	Ziggy Greaves XI	459
20 E Carmichael	457	Jedi Masters	457

## YOUTH LEAGUE

1 D Lewis	553	Lewis Boys II	553
2 R Wicks	519	Robbed	519
3 M Somapala	510	Horley Flames	510
4 C Marianneak	510	Janssen's XI	510
5 J Gardner	497	15 Chumbawumbas	497
6 M McPhillips	495	Ballygalgryovers	495
7 M Rubers	476	Krysonia Three	476
8 J Laurence	475	Smooth United	475
9 C Oyston	474	The Offspring FC	474
10 T Smith	468	Up The League FC	468
11 Q Ladgard	459	Oliver's Army	459
12 K Tindall	459	Flash XI	459
13 G Calderbank	457	Colliers XI	457
14 N Broderson	457	Total Commitment	457
15 D Greenman	457	The Koporthecup	457
16 S Mawer	457	Spursak Center	457
17 P Carter	459	Monty's Dots	459
18 A Monteith	459	Joesbunchobars	459
19 J Tompkins	454	The Invincibles	454
20 N McGuinness	454		

## ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr M Jones	628	Joe	628
2 S Legg	620	Goose 4	620
3 Mr M Jones	614	Joe	614
4 B Fazalierley	614	Joe	614
5 Mike Madden	608	Foachers never change	608
6 Ralston	608	Goose 4	608
7 D Fenton	604	Goose 4	604
8 Mr A Colombe	602	Goose 4	602
9 Malcolm Jackson	597	No game	597
10 D Shier	597	No game	597
11 N Wheatley	597	H D G Is A Sad Waster	597
12 Mary Ann Kennedy	586	Inverness United	586
13 H D G Is A Sad Waster	586	Inverness United	586
14 C Shaw	582	Birmingham FC	582
15 Mr M Jones	580	Joe	580
16 P Turner	578	Turners Earners 5	578
17 A Luckhurst	578	Joe	578
18 D Shier	573	Russell 2	573
19 George Mijostovich	572	Big Mac Europe	572
20 D Shaw	572	Joe	572
1 D Shaw	572	Joe	572
2 J Strickland	570	Joe	570
3 D Busby	569	Joe	569
4 Graeme Dabour	569	Joe	569
5 P Turner	569	Joe	569
6 A Luckhurst	569	Joe	569
7 J Hunt	569	Joe	569
8 Mr M Jones	569	Joe	569
9 AJ Hastings	569	Joe	569
10 G Dulan	569	Joe	569
11 G Wilson	569	Joe	569
12 G Wilson	569	Joe	569
13 S Legg	569	Joe	569
14 C Shaw	569	Joe	569
15 Mary Ann Kennedy	569	Joe	569
16 A Luckhurst	569	Joe	569
17 P Turner	569	Joe	569
18 D Shier	569	Joe	569
19 J Hunt	569	Joe	569
20 Mr M Jones	569	Joe	569

## PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1 Paul Simpson	389	Derby County Wolves	389
2 Simon Grayson	388	Amos Villa	388
3 Alan Hogg	388	Leeds United	388
4 Steve Ford	388	West Ham United	388
5 John Skidmore	387	Coventry City	387
6 Dean Blackwell	387	Wolves	387
7 Robert Lee	387	Newcastle United	387
8 Jonathan Hunt	386	Derby County	386
9 David Tiele	386	Crystal Palace	386
10 Kyle Lightbourne	386	Coventry City	386
11 Rob Savage	386	Leicester City	386
12 Richard Shaw	386	Coventry City	386
13 David Barry	386	Newcastle United	386
14 Kevin Gallacher	386	Blackburn Rovers	386
15 Frank Lambert	386	Chelsea	386
16 Tim Brasher	386	West Ham United	386
17 Bjorn Krane	386	Liverpool	386
18 Kenner Kvanne	386	Wimbledon	386
19 David Whelan	386	Leeds United	386
20 Phil Babb	386	Liverpool	386
1 Paul Williams	386	Coventry City	386
2 Dean Holdsworth	386	Wimbledon	386
3 Dave Watson	386	Everton	386
4 Gareth Southgate	386	Aston Villa	386
5 Dennis Wise	386	Chelsea	386
6 David Seaman	386	Arsenal	386
7 Teddy Sheringham	386	Manchester United	386
8 Nigel Martyn	386	Leeds United	386
9 Andy Townsend	386	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	386
10 Lee Sharpe	386	Liverpool	386
11 Andrew Liddle	386	Liverpool	386
12 Kevin Hindwood	386	Derby County	386
13 Lee Dixon	386	Leeds United	386
14 Nicky Butt	386	Manchester United	386
15 Ugo Ehiogu	386	Aston Villa	386
16 Patrick Berger	386	Liverpool	386
17 John Hendrie	386	Liverpool	386
18 Kevin Muscat	386	Crystal Palace	386
19 Patrick Kianzani	386	Leicester City	386
20 Andy Blanton	386	Derby County	386
1 Lars Bohinen	386	Blackburn Rovers	386
2 Robbie Van Der Laan	386	Derby County	386
3 John Beresford	386	Newcastle United	386
4 Graeme Le Saut	386	Chelsea	386
5 Gary Mabbutt	386	Tottenham Hotspur	386
6 Richard Johnson	386	Leeds United	386
7 Jason Eadie	386	Wimbledon	386
8 Robbie Fowler	386	Liverpool	386
9 Steve Clarke	386	Derby County	386
10 Roger Cross	386	Tottenham Hotspur	386
11 Neil Macdonald	386	Derby County	386
12 Andy Smith	386	Leeds United	386
13 Stewart Castledine	386	Wimbledon	386
14 Kasey Keller	386	Leeds United	386
15 Steve Lomas	386	West Ham United	386
16 Colin Hendry	386	Blackburn Rovers	386
17 Darren Hogg	386	Crystal Palace	386
18 David Beckham	386	Manchester United	386
19 John Scales	386	Tottenham Hotspur	386
20 John Harrison	386	West Ham United	386
1 Danny Williams	386	Everton	386
2 Gary Neville	386	Manchester United	386
3 Mark Wright	386	Liverpool	386
4 Spencer Fine	386	Leicester City	386
5 Nicky Eaden	386	Derby County	386
6 Alan Wright	386	Aston Villa	386
7 Colin Calderwood	386	Tottenham Hotspur	386
8 Alan Shearer	386	Newcastle United	386
9 Ian Dowie	386	West Ham United	386
10 Lee Carsley	386	Derby County	386
11 Gianfranco Zola	386	Chelsea	386
12 Marc Edwards	386	Crystal Palace	386
13 Mike Whelan	386	Blackburn Rovers	386

## INTERNET LEAGUE

1 Mike Madden	608	Foachers never change	608
2 Mary Ann Kennedy	586	Inverness United	586
3 George Mijostovich	572	Big Mac Europe	572
4 Graeme Dabour	569	Joe	569
5 Mary Ann Kennedy	561	Joe	561
6 Andrew Beck	559	Joe	559
7 Chris Forde	552	Joe	552
8 Barba Page a la Bacon	550	Joe	550
9 Susan Makin	549	Joe	549
10 Richard Collier	549	Joe	549
11 Michael Huddleston	548	Joe	548
12 P Bown	547	Joe	547
13 Tim Oldfield	546	Joe	546
14 Andy Robertson	546	Joe	546
15 Jeremy Dwyer	543	Joe	543
16 Brian O'Hare	543	Joe	543
17 Philip Ward	540	Joe	540
18 Michael Horan	539	Joe	539
19 Graeme Dabour	538	Joe	538

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هكذا من الأول



**When a club ends its losing streak, the players may become bargains worth transferring into your team**

Booth have begun to justify earlier valuations, and Kevin Pressman has regained his confidence in goal. Liabilities have become assets once again.

Could there also be similar stirrings elsewhere in south Yorkshire? Barnsley recently took three points at Anfield and were unlucky victims of the Wednesday revival at Hillsborough a week ago. On Saturday they came from behind to salvage a draw against Newcastle at Oakwell, in a game which featured well-

D Huckerby (Coventry)	22.5m
N Redfern (Barnsley)	23m
A Booth (Sheff Wed)	23m
P Di Carlo (Sheff Wed)	23m
W. Hansen (Celtic)	24m

Beware the false dawn, however. Any optimism in the Coventry City camp following their 4-0 win on Saturday will be tempered by the knowledge that they now face six difficult games, including a visit from Manchester United and a trip to the fortress of Upton Park. Even so, Darren Huckerby looks in good form: "We all love the lad. He's a complete and utter natural," Gordon Strachan, his manager, said after two powerful strikes had helped put paid to any hopes of an early Tottenham revival. That is one comeback which, like that of Captain Oates, may take some time.



**Redfearn:** one of several players benefiting from their clubs' upturn in form

There are no transfers in ITF this week

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

□ EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

**THE LINE** is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

☐ YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

☐ TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

☐ **YOUR NEW** player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

☐ CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Totals
50101	B Dorrds	Aberdeen	4.00	4	28
50201	J Wright	Arsenal	7.50	0	47
50202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	8.50	0	50
50301	D Yorke	Aston Villa	8.00	0	28
50302	S Cochrane	Aston Villa	5.00	0	14
50303	S Milosavievic	Aston Villa	2.00	0	14
50401	G Hristov	Barnsley	1.50	0	9
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	1.50	2	11
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	2.00	2	21
50403	C Marcellie	Barnsley	1.00	0	4
50501	K Gaillochier	Blackburn R	5.50	4	42
50502	M Dahlin	Blackburn R	4.00	0	28
50503	C Sutton	Blackburn R	6.00	2	54
50602	N Blake	Bolton W	3.50	3	25
50603	P Beardsley	Bolton W	2.00	0	15
53003	D Holdsworth	Bolton W	3.00	0	15
51601	D Jackson	Celtic	4.00	5	11
50703	T Johnson	Celtic	2.50	0	0
50704	S Donnelly	Celtic	4.50	1	18
50705	H Larsson	Celtic	4.50	8	36
50801	G Zola	Chelsea	7.00	1	46
50802	M Hughes	Chelsea	5.00	0	23
50901	D Dublin	Coventry City	5.00	2	35
50902	D Huckerby	Coventry City	2.50	8	28
50903	N Whelan	Coventry City	2.00	2	3
51001	N Shipperley	Crystal Palace	1.50	1	25
51003	B Dyer	Crystal Palace	2.50	0	17
51004	M Padovano	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	17
51101	D Sturridge	Derby County	4.00	1	23
51103	F Balafo	Derby County	4.50	4	44
51104	D Burton	Derby County	1.50	0	4
51105	P Wanchope	Derby County	3.50	1	7
51201	A McLaren	Dundee United	3.00	1	18
51202	K Olofinboba	Dundee United	4.00	2	37
51301	G Britton	Dunfermline	2.00	0	10
51401	D Ferguson	Everton	4.00	0	16
51402	N Barry	Everton	3.00	1	11

51404	D Cadamarteri	Evinton	2.50	1	2
51501	J Robertson	Hearls	3.50	0	23
51502	J Hamilton	Hearls	3.00	0	3
51602	S Crawford	Hibernian	3.00	1	7
51701	P Wright	Kilmarnock	3.00	1	17
51702	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	2.50	3	18
51801	J Hesselbaink	Leeds Utd	3.00	1	22
51803	R Wallace	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	40
51804	H Kewell	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	1
51901	S Cluridge	Leicester City	2.50	0	12
51902	E Heskley	Leicester City	4.50	1	21
51903	I Marshall	Leicester City	2.50	0	27
51904	G Fenton	Leicester City	2.00	1	13
52001	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	2	23
52002	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	1	27
52003	K Riddle	Liverpool	4.50	0	21
52004	M Owen	Liverpool	4.50	4	8
52101	O Solaskjaer	Manchester Utd	7.50	0	18
52102	T Sheringham	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	34
52103	P Scholes	Manchester Utd	6.00	0	24
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	3.00	4	25
52202	T Coyne	Motherwell	3.00	2	28
52301	A Kerr	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	1
52303	F Aspinla	Newcastle Utd	5.00	1	12
52304	J Tomasson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	8
52401	M Negri	Rangers	6.50	1	103
52402	S Rozental	Rangers	3.50	0	0
52403	G Durie	Rangers	3.00	0	10
52501	A Booth	Sheffield Wed	3.00	3	29
50702	P Di Canlio	Sheffield Wed	3.00	4	32
52503	R Humphreys	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	4
52701	M Le Tissier	Southampton	7.00	4	17
52502	D Hitt	Southampton	2.50	2	25
52702	E Oeststad	Southampton	4.00	0	8
52704	K Davies	Southampton	3.50	2	6
52801	G O'Boyle	St Johnstone	1.50	2	23
52802	R Grant	St Johnstone	1.50	0	18
52801	S Nersen	Tottenham H	3.00	0	10
52302	L Ferdinand	Tottenham H	7.50	1	21
52802	C Armstrong	Tottenham H	3.50	0	13
52803	J Domingues	Tottenham H	3.00	0	0
52901	J Harrison	West Ham Utd	4.50	2	46
52902	P Kitson	West Ham Utd	3.00	4	13
52903	I Dowie	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	9
53001	M Gayle	Wimbledon	4.00	1	17
53002	E Ekolu	Wimbledon	4.00	0	22
53004	C Cort	Wimbledon	3.00	1	5



## NEWS

## Britain puts health ban on EU beef

■ Britain plunged into a new confrontation with Europe over beef when Jack Cunningham imposed a unilateral ban on imports that do not meet the safety standards required of British meat.

The Agriculture Minister announced his decision after the EU voted 14-1 to delay the introduction of such checks throughout the Community until next April. Pages 1, 4

## 'CJD' blood transfusion scare

■ Up to 3,000 people treated in 100 British hospitals may have been injected with blood products taken from a donor who died six weeks ago from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, the human form of BSE. None of them is to be told because the Health Department believes the risk is so slight that there is no reason to cause alarm. Page 1

## Traditional Hague

William Hague and Fionn Jenkins, who have lived together since July, will revert to tradition on the eve of their wedding and spend the night apart. Page 2

## Dropping in

There was only one certainty for a 50-year-old skydiver as he fell 2,000ft with a failed parachute. Ben Jones thought: "This is going to hurt". Page 3

## Alan Clark sues

The reputation of Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, diarist, and self-confessed philanderer, was damaged by newspaper articles under his name but were written by a journalist, the High Court was told. Page 5

## Princess inquiry

The French magistrate leading the investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales is to wind up his inquiry after a failed search for a Fiat Uno. Page 6

## Refugees murdered

An elderly Polish couple who fled to Britain as refugees after surviving the horrors of Stalin's death camps were murdered by fellow countrymen. Page 7

## Lawrence inquiry

An inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence was flawed by "significant weaknesses, omissions and lost opportunities" according to the Police Complaints Authority. Page 9

## Coldest day from eastern Europe

■ Much of Britain will today experience the coldest day of winter with forecasters warning of below freezing conditions and snow. The coldest temperatures are expected in southern England as icy winds spread from eastern Europe. The London Weather Centre said everywhere across the South East would struggle to stay above zero today. Pages 1, 12

## Christian Aid row

Christian Aid condemned as "absurd" a decision by advertising watchdogs to ban a campaign on the suffering caused by Third World debt. Page 10

## Harman pressure

Labour MPs put Harriet Harman under further pressure yesterday over government plans to cut benefits for the disabled and single parents. Page 11

## Jackal trial

The legal defence team of Carlos the Jackal became a one-man band after his lawyers stormed out of a Paris court claiming that his murder trial was illegal and unjust. Page 12

## Cuban misery

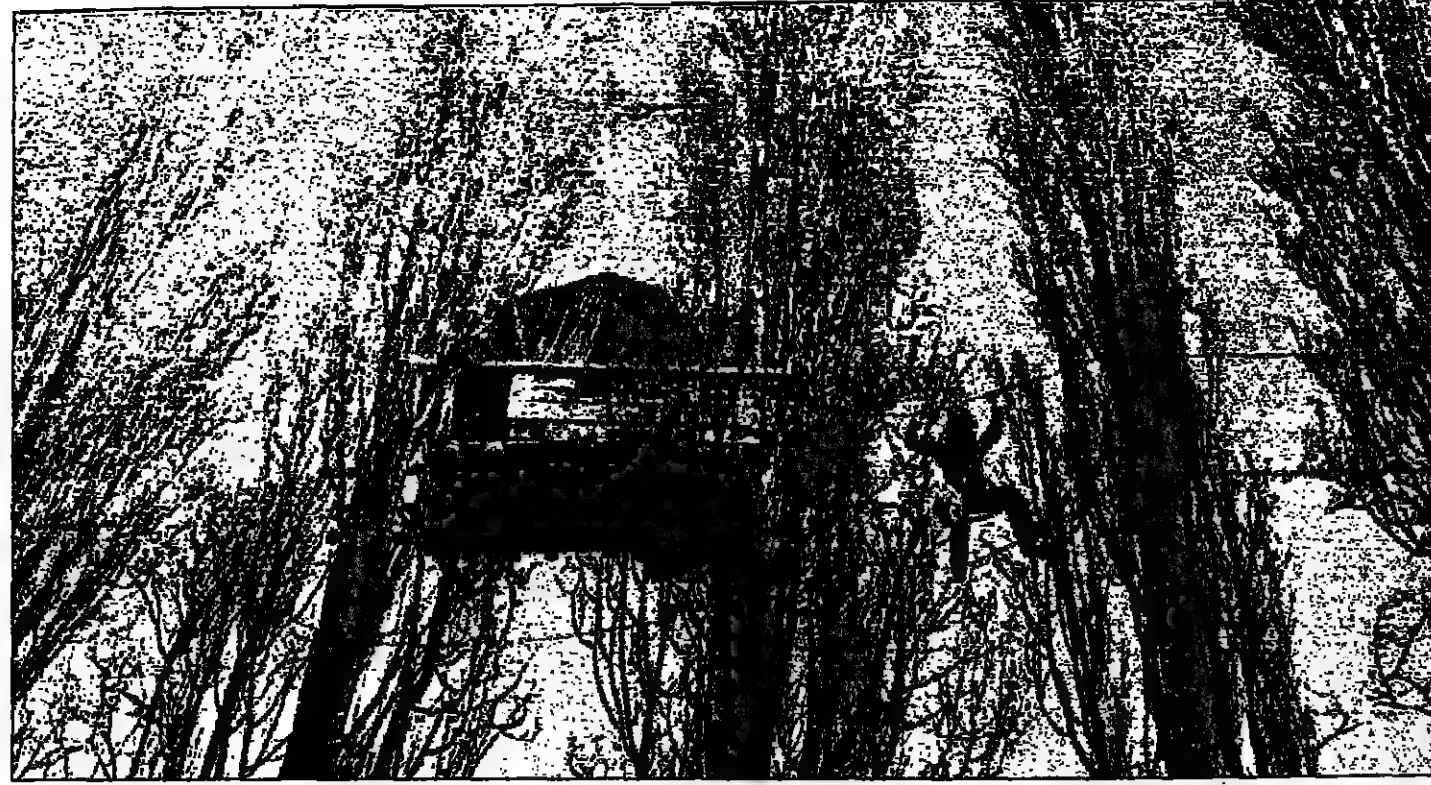
News that Cubans will be able to celebrate Christmas as a holiday for the first time in 29 years caused widespread excitement. But most Cubans have little to look forward to. Page 13

## Soft on dictators

The American Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, signalled a switch in United States foreign policy on Africa, softening a previously tough approach towards dictators. Page 14

## Tigers ask for help

The once proud leaders of the former so-called "tiger" economies of South-East Asia, reeling from falling stock markets, called for help. Page 15



Protesters man a tree house in poplars at Kingston, Surrey, which are threatened by a development being considered by the council

## BUSINESS

Asia turmoil: Japan unveiled a 10 trillion yen package to stabilise its beleaguered financial system on the day that a survey of business confidence suggested that the country may be heading back into recession. Page 25

Bingo sale: The shake-up of the UK bingo industry continued as Bass sold its Gala bingo chain to a management buy-in team for £279 million in cash. Page 25

Sears deal: The troubled retail group has sold Shoe Express to a company owned by Philip Green in a deal worth at least £26.7 million. Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 76.6 to 5,121.8. The pound fell to 102.4, falling 1.98 cents to \$1.6329 and 4.02 pence to DM2.8904. Page 28

## SPORT

Cricket: England defeated Pakistan in the Sharjah Trophy by eight runs and qualified for the final. Their opponents will be known after the game between West Indies and India. Page 46

Football: England are set to take part in a pre-World Cup, four-nation tournament in Morocco in May alongside France, Belgium and the hosts. Page 46

Rugby union: Wasps and Bath, the top two teams last season, conceded 50 points at the weekend, signalling a new order at the head of the English club game. Page 45

Boxing: No matter how much Naseem Hamed's admirers believe he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over America. Page 48

## ARTS

Tom Swartz: As the National Film Theatre devotes a season to the new wave of Russian film-makers, one of its leading lights, Sergei Bodrov, explains the challenges. Page 32

Global spirit: Highlights of the weekend's world music festival at the Barbican included Nina Simone in good spirits, even if her voice may have lost some of its lustre. Page 32

Castle ciphers: In Croydon Phil Willmott revises the 18th-century melodrama, *The Castle Spectre*, but the result is more *Carry On* than Gothic horror. Page 33

Sisters sparred: A new show at Manchester City Art Galleries is an admirable attempt to give some 20 Pre-Raphaelite women artists long-overdue recognition. Page 34

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

■ HOMES  
End of the idyllic life that failed to find Utopia in the country and came back to the city

■ INTERFACE  
Why Desmond Llewellyn, gadget master of the Bond films, has trouble changing a light bulb

Can you help: Like a phoenix, Dorah came through the fire in the South African squatters' camp — but now she risks being plunged into darkness. Page 16

Fifty ways: Confronted by an attractive and willing woman, men can find a multitude of reasons to justify going to bed with her, no matter what expressions of caution they might make. Page 17

Lessons of jail: Education should serve a rehabilitative purpose for the inmates of prisons. Page 35

Sales talk: Solicitors are now salespeople. Page 37

Windows: Andrew Hinks thought he had nowhere to go as a window-dresser until he designed a jack-in-the-box. Now his business has a six-figure turnover. Page 39

The British Prime Minister has missed an opportunity to justify his legitimate ambition by throwing himself into a battle to obtain a small say in the administration of a future single currency in which London will not immediately participate. By patching up a Franco-German alliance against him he has forced a rather shaky compromise on the co-ordination of political economics. — *Le Monde*

Preview: But was Elizabeth Taylor anything like the real Cleopatra? *Time* (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph checks in at the hotel from hell. Pages 42, 43

## Ministerial Incapacity

Ministers could justify exploring other ways of financing a safety net for the long-term sick. Page 19

## Still stalling

Saddam must be convinced that at least some members of the international community still have the stomach to take him on. Page 19

## Wedding blues

For all the happy symbolism there will still be Conservatives inclined to dismiss the nuances of the wedding list because they did not make the invitation list. Page 19

## ANATOLE KALETSKY

The threat to new Labour is that voters will stay exactly where they are but that Mr Blair will move so far to the right that he leaves them high and dry. Page 18

## MAGNUS LINKLATER

The test of the Government's commitment to freedom of information will come when I confront a British general and he invites me in to rifle through his in-tray. Page 18

## LIBBY PURVES

There comes a point when even Mrs Soppy has to speak out against the drivelling infantilism advancing on Christmas. Page 18

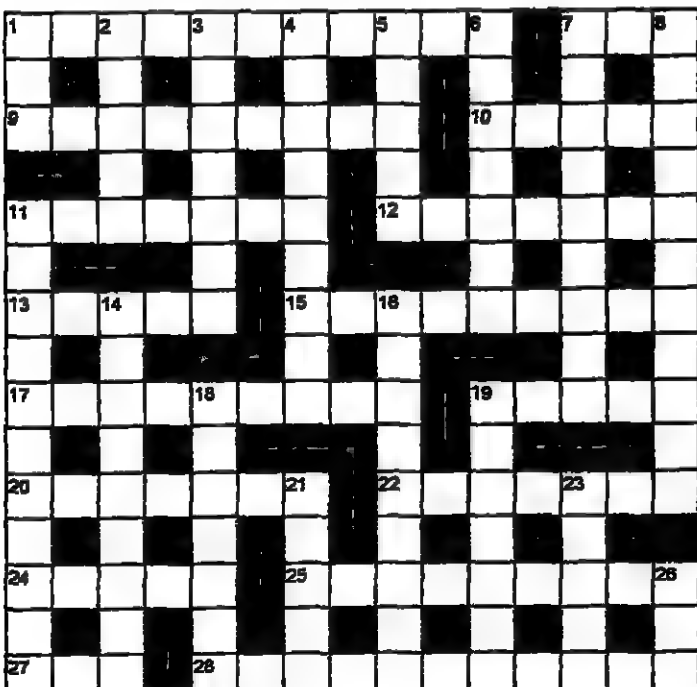
## PETER RIDDELL

Geoffrey Robinson should not resign as a minister. His financial affairs are certainly strange and his explanations for his dealings with the Guernsey trust have been confusing and in some respects inconsistent. But nothing has so far emerged to suggest that he has done anything wrong as a Treasury minister. Page 11

Daphne Fielding, author: *N. C. Sainsbury, Librarian: The East of Dorsetshire*. Page 21

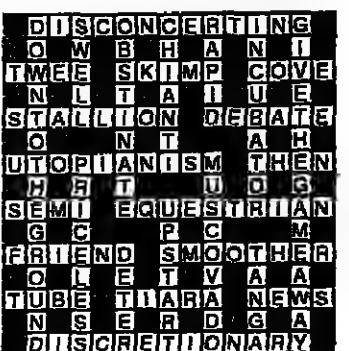
Crime and Disorder Bill: NHS funding; safe havens for newborns; home births; holocaust claims; Gibraltar; Hong Kong tourism; Britannia; male bonding. Page 19

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,664



- ACROSS**
- Eastern runner in dark suit and light shoes (11).
  - Rejected loan for vehicle (3).
  - One elderly relative to dishearten another? (5,4).
  - Endless unhappiness for one who's very close (5).
  - Grapple with books in Company wind-up (7).
  - An excitable type at the end of the match? (7).
  - French publication largely a feeble thing (5).
  - Celebrating superior speed in test (9).
  - Held up in pass in mounted action (9).
  - Vehicle carrying a certain weight of stones (5).
  - Flowers in porch I'd sprayed? (7).
  - Seek support for painting school's opening (7).
  - Extra height on flag of European nation (5).
- DOWN**
- Urgent reason to restrict supply of drink (9).
  - Giri's limited dowry (3).
  - Adjustable spanner giving capital service (5,6).
  - Urges start of hobby, perhaps (3).
  - Man on board hauling in river crustacean (5).
  - Resentment, being grounded right away after prang (7).
  - Flooded at home, and not taken out? (9).
  - Henry, holding court, set up control on admission (5).
  - Tommy's ordered to cover platoon at first sign of trouble (7).
  - Petitioner in EC involved with BSE here (9).
  - Produces sound evidence of friction in cricket (11).
  - Remembers to engage the babysitter? (5,2,4).
  - He takes pains to provide satisfaction (9).
  - It warns other motorists of turnings ahead (9).
  - Hit out in temper after 'e produces rude name, perhaps (7).
  - Many travelling round found this line on map (7).
  - Poor horse having to be driven to work? (5).
  - A minor present (5).
  - Entertainment primarily followed by the older viewer (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,663



Times Two Crossword, page 48

## AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions  
UK Weather - All regions 0320 444 910  
UK Roads - All regions 0320 441 410  
Roads 1-24 0320 441 410  
Roads 25-28 0320 441 410  
Roads 29-32 0320 441 410  
Roads 33-36 0320 441 410  
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Roads 81-84 0320 441 410  
Roads 85-88 0320 441 410  
Roads 89-92 0320 441 410  
Roads 93-96 0320 441 410  
Roads 97-100 0320 441 410

## Car reports by fax

Send us your car report from the AA member of 195 cars 0320 410 599

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday's highest and lowest temperatures in the UK. For more information on the weather, visit our website at [www.aa.co.uk](http://www.aa.co.uk)

## NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.8% of the raw material for the production of the second half of 1996

## LONDON TO PARIS

FROM £59 RETURN

## LONDON TO COPENHAGEN

FROM £99 RETURN

## LONDON TO EDINBURGH

FROM £59 RETURN

## FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a bitterly cold and windy day. Snow showers will affect eastern areas and parts of the west of England, and some persistent snow will spread from the south across England and south and east Wales during the day. Sheltered western districts will be mainly dry. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also be cold and windy, with some bright or sunny intervals in the northwest, but elsewhere it will be cloudy with some light snow in the east and over hills.

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	10	W 10	100	0.1
Edinburgh	8	W 10	100	0.1
Birmingham	10	W 10	100	0.1
Manchester	10	W 10	100	0.1
Cardiff	10	W 10	100	0.1
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2  
TODAY

**Chapter and verse  
on the future of the  
British bookshop  
PAGE 29**

**Is the jury system right for fraud cases?**  
**PAGES 35-38**

**England continue  
to make the  
running in Sharjah  
PAGE 40-48**

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46-47**

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

# BUSINESS TODAY

• **By Jason Nisse**

Sears shares, which stood at 95p earlier this year, rose 2½ p to 49½ p yesterday.

Commentary, page 27  
Diary, page 20

**By JANET BISH, ECONOMICS EDITOR**

**Asia's appeal, page 15**  
**Commentary, page 27**

**Asia's appeal, page 15**  
**Commentary, page 27**

**By Adam Jones**

Profits across the industry have been depressed as competition from the National Lottery ate away at bingo's traditional customer base. However, venture capitalists say it is recovering, encouraged by government deregulation of advertising and new sites on the edge of towns, attracting younger players. Bass said the net proceeds of the deal would go to reduce debt.

**Numbers game, page 29**

**By JON ASHWORTH**

The two airlines are expected to submit written memoranda next month. BA had no immediate comment last night.

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

terms. RJB is to extend redundancy terms for mineworkers until the end of June. Generous redundancy packages inherited from British Coal had been due to expire at the end of March but unions had pressed for an extension.

**Robinson faces heat, page 26**

John Charcol, December 1997.

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# Robinson faces the heat from coal producers

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRESSURE is mounting on the Government over its handling of the crisis in the coal industry. Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, yesterday faced growing unrest from the industry as he tried to broker deals with the three coal-burning generators to shore up supply arrangements with RJB Mining.

Mr Robinson will tonight hear a

demand from two of the smaller coal producers that there should be no sweetheart deals with RJB that would disadvantage rivals. Talks will take place with Midlands Mining and Scotland Mining, which sought clarification from the Prime Minister over his statement to the House of Commons last week that arrangements had been agreed between RJB Mining, National Power, PowerGen and The Energy Group to secure supplies beyond the March 31

expiry of current contracts until the end of June. With the Government having activated a short-term plan to save the coal industry, which faced the threat of closure of up to eight pits and loss of 5,000 jobs, it is now facing increasing criticism that it is saving RJB at the cost of other producers. Celtic Energy, the biggest Welsh mining company, is also likely to demand a level playing field. It has suggested that the output of Welsh

collieries could double to six million tonnes and will be keen that any market for extra coal that the Government may squeeze out of the generators will not all go to RJB. Separately, Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, gave warning that the Government's "crisis management" action on coal may lead to less competition in electricity generation. It said that the government inquiry into the electricity trading market, announced in October, was

motivated by a concern that competition in generation sustains downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices. But it said the moratorium on new gas-fired stations was likely to impede generation competition and lower prices because coal-fired stations dominate the price-setting area of the market. Confusion has also surrounded the deals between RJB and the generators, with conflicting reports about what has been agreed and by whom.

## Utilities face threat of millennium bug penalty

By CHRIS AYRES

PUBLIC utilities were warned yesterday that they could be penalised for breach of licence if they fail to tackle the millennium bug problem.

The threat was made by Don Cruickshank, chairman of Action 2000, the government-funded group established to confront the problem of computers that do not recognise the date 2000. The cost of making computers millennium-proof in the UK is estimated to be more than £3 billion, and is likely to be worsened by the introduction of the European single currency at the same time.

Mr Cruickshank, who works one day a week at Action 2000

with a budget this year of just £1 million, was responding to accusations of government complacency. There is widespread concern that the UK economy will face chaos if companies do not begin to take action. Public services could also be affected, with a leading doctor warning last week that 1,500 hospital patients could die in the first weeks of 2000 because of the problem.

"This is not a case of red tape and procrastination," Mr Cruickshank said. "If I found that a company was putting an industry at risk, I would act. It would result in a breach of licence for utilities, and if there was a company which failed to appreciate the scale of the problem I would expect the rest of the industry to refuse to interconnect with it."

Mr Cruickshank emphasised that the millennium bug was mainly a business issue, and he urged companies to take early action. "I see my role as being to raise the tempo. It is not an IT or a government issue. This is becoming a real business issue, and the message is: get a grip."

He said the Government would take control of the problem in the public sector, and justifying his threat to privatised utilities, said: "Voters will want the Government to help continue the supply of water, electricity and telecoms."

Action 2000 will launch a Web site and a telephone hotline early next year, and is encouraging companies to share information on how to tackle the bug. Mr Cruickshank said smaller businesses would have to rely on large companies to help them out.

Mr Cruickshank refused to estimate the cost of the millennium bug to industry. "It's a pointless exercise. It will have a dampening effect on the British economy, as bright IT people are made to solve a dull problem," he said. The shortage of IT professionals would mean higher wage costs for businesses and the emergence of "cowboy" IT companies.

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FOUNTAIN Forestry Holdings, which provides forestry services in Britain and America, lifted pre-tax profits 32 per cent to £955,000 for the year to

September 30. Barry Gamble, the chairman, pictured, saw earnings rise 11 per cent to 7.9p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.83p, making a

2.75p total. Turnover rose 16 per cent to £21.8 million. The company floated on the Alternative Investment Market in December last year.

## Growth in pensions helps Standard Life to rise 20%

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

STANDARD LIFE, the mutual insurance company, yesterday said that it had enjoyed an exceptional year with new business worldwide up 20 per cent to £3.3 billion. This is a 50 per cent advance on 1995 when the insurance market slumped.

In the UK, new business income from life and pensions policies leapt 30 per cent to £499 million. New annual premiums were up 44 per cent to £272.4 million. The company was particularly successful in personal pensions where annual premi-

ums jumped 69 per cent to £154.6 million and single premiums increased 38 per cent to £869.4 million. Business in unit trusts and Peps rose 38 per cent to £167.4 million.

Sales of managed and equity investment funds, however, fell 15 per cent to £31.4 million, reflecting the company's withdrawal of with-profits bond products a few years ago.

The company also increased its overall share of the life and pensions market from 6 per cent to 6.9 per cent. Its share of the intermediary IFA market

also rose from 10.6 per cent to 11.7 per cent.

Despite reforming its pricing structure two years ago, so that charges are taken throughout the life of a policy not just in the first few years, Standard has not seen an increase in early terminations of policies.

The company scored higher than average persistency figures in a recent report from the Personal Investment Authority showing that policyholders had not exploited high transfer values.

## Acer plant to create 1,000 jobs in Wales

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 1,000 jobs are to be created in Wales with the opening of a £25 million plant by Acer, the Taiwanese computer business.

The company will produce computer monitors and peripherals at the factory in Wentlog, near Cardiff. The move is an important boost for inward investment after the recent decision by Toyota to choose France rather than the UK for new production. It will also ease concern that the troubles in Far Eastern markets will curb development in Europe by Asian companies.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said: "This is tremendous news for Wales and for Britain, with another major overseas manufacturer choosing to invest here. We will see 1,000 direct new jobs created in a project which will link with a number of our existing inward investors in the electronics sector."

Wales has been at the centre of rows about regions luring inward investment from other areas. But Mr Davies denied that the Acer project had been "poached" from elsewhere in Britain. "We have worked as a cohesive team to secure this project. Our professional approach - which has respected the arrangements agreed with all other government departments and the good commercial reasons for Acer choosing Wales, are factors that secured the project."

Acer will get grants from the regional selective assistance scheme on a gradual basis, increasing with the number of people employed in the factory. The plant will be built by the Welsh Development Agency for lease to Acer while the land, road access and environmental work will be provided by Cardiff County Council.

Graham Jackson, Acer UK's managing director, said: "This announcement reflects the tremendous growth we have shown over the past 12 months. As we continue to grow, the intention is to open more manufacturing plants in the UK to cope with the increased European demand for our PC, notebook and server products."

Production at the site will begin next year with full production expected to be reached within five years.

## Westminster Health sells homes to rival

WESTMINSTER HEALTH CARE HOLDINGS, the private nursing home group, is selling 12 care homes in the UK to Tamaris, a smaller rival, with a price tag of a little more than £20 million. The deal, which involves the transfer of 698 beds, includes seven homes in England and five in Northern Ireland. Proceeds from the deal will be ploughed into other healthcare markets, Westminster said, while Tamaris emphasised that the move would strengthen its position in the long-term care market. The deal, which is subject to the approval of Tamaris shareholders, will be structured as a mix of £15.5 million in cash and the rest in shares.

Westminster also announced it has teamed up with Holiday Retirement Corporation, the US retirement home firm, to form a healthcare financing division. The company will be called Atlantic Healthcare Finance and is intended to tap into the growing sale and leaseback market for healthcare properties.

## Wedgwood leads world

WATERFORD WEDGWOOD has secured its position as the world's largest ceramics and crystal manufacturer after gaining control of more than 50 per cent of Rosenthal, of Germany. The enlarged group will have sales in excess of £1,530 million (£470 million), boasting a leading position in markets in America, Japan, the UK, Ireland and continental Europe. The company expects to incur a £127 million charge against the restructuring of the loss-making German group.

## BICC's double delight

BICC COMMUNICATIONS, a subsidiary of BICC Group, the UK cables and construction conglomerate, has won two contracts worth more than £100 million over the next three years. BICC Communications, which was formed last May, will work with Cable & Wireless Communications to supply optical and metallic cable solutions for nationwide telecommunications and cable television networks. The other contract is to supply cable to ESAT Telecom in the Republic of Ireland.

## Healthcall approached

SHARES of Healthcall Group rose 9p to 79p yesterday after the medical services company said it had received a takeover approach from its executive directors, backed by NatWest Equity Partners "at a small premium to the current share price". At yesterday's price the company is worth £44 million. It was floated on the stock market at 105p a share and reached a high of 146p early last year. In 1996, the company earned pre-tax profits of £5.35 million on turnover of £55.3 million.

## Plysu edges ahead

PLYSU, the plastic products company, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.9 million, from £3.6 million, in the half year to September 30, despite the strength of sterling. Earnings rose to 5.6p a share, from 4.9p, and the interim dividend is up 10 per cent to 2.2p. David O'Shaughnessy, chairman, said the full benefit of recent investment and acquisitions would be seen in the next financial year. Turnover of £71.1 million, compared with £67.1 million in the first half of the previous year.

## Avocet digs up \$13.9m

AVOCET MINING, whose shares have fallen sharply this year because of weak gold prices, has realised a gain of \$13.9 million (£8.5 million) by liquidating its gold hedge. The proceeds, together with cash on deposit, have repaid \$16 million of borrowings from Macquarie Bank. The company was announcing reduced pre-tax losses of £902,000, from £2.98 million, in the half year to September 30. Losses were 2.6p a share (9.4p loss). There is again no dividend.

## Aromascan holds steady

LOSSES at Aromascan, the digital aroma technology company, held steady at £1.07 million before tax in the half year to October 31, against £1.09 million previously. Richard Lyman, chairman, said the company expected to be able to announce progress in the alliance with Mitsubishi Electric at the financial year end. Interim losses were 3.97p a share (4.06p loss) and there is again no dividend. Aromascan has £2.3 million of cash in the bank. The shares were unchanged at 30p yesterday.

## McBride acquisition

MCBRIDE, the household products company, has agreed to buy Grada, a maker of private label and minor brand household cleaning products in The Netherlands, for a maximum profit-related consideration of £11.7 million, including acquired debt. Grada's holding company registered a £240,000 pre-tax loss in 1996 but McBride said the business now trades at a profit after a recovery in the Dutch market. McBride will pay an initial £1.58 million in cash.

## Coats Viyella demerging

SHARES of Coats Viyella rose 14p to 115p after it confirmed it would put forward proposals for the demerger of the contract clothing, fashion and branded clothing and home furnishings divisions from the engineering businesses tomorrow, when it is due to publish an update on current trading. Analysts believe the demerger could produce two stand-alone companies with a combined stock market value of around £1 billion, against yesterday's valuation of around £812 million. *Times*, page 28

## UAL forecast lifts shares

UAL CORPORATION, parent of United Airlines, said yesterday that it expected its fourth-quarter income to exceed Wall Street estimates, triggering a sharp rally in its stock. Shares in UAL were up \$3.125 at \$97.25 (£52.87) in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange. UAL expects its earnings per share to exceed the consensus forecast of \$1.58. Gerald Greenwald, chairman, said that fourth-quarter and 1998 booking trends for the airline have not changed.

## Pain joins the board at Abbey National

By MARIANNE CUMBEY

ABBEY NATIONAL has promoted Mark Pain, group financial controller, to the executive post of finance director, making him the youngest employee ever to be appointed to the board.

Mr Pain, 36, will take up his new position in the new year.

The boardroom reshuffle, announced after Ian Harley's appointment in October as chief executive designate to replace Peter Birch, also included the appointment to the board of Ian Treacy.

Mr Treacy is currently company secretary and will be joining the board on January 1, with responsibility for group risk management. Mr Treacy will be retaining the office of company secretary.

Mr Harley has made it clear that he would like to make a substantial acquisition in the fund management or life assurance sectors.

The bank also confirmed yesterday that Charles Toner, deputy chief executive, will head up a new wealth management division.

This will include the existing Glasgow and Dublin life assurance activities, the offshore retail businesses in the Channel Islands, Isle of Man, Gibraltar and Hong Kong, together with the onshore retail business of Cater Allen, the stockbroker.

The new division will target high net worth investors who have salaries or liquid assets of £100,000 or more, the bank said.

## Mortgage rate put on hold at Nationwide

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

NATIONWIDE, the country's largest building society, yesterday gave an early Christmas present to homeowners when it confirmed it was not implementing last month's rise in base interest rates.

However, it will raise its savings rates in the new year. The announcement, a week after the Halifax moved to 8.7 per cent in line with other high street lenders, means Nationwide's standard variable rate stays at 8.1 per cent. This leaves its borrowers with

a £50,000 mortgage £1,911 better off over seven years. A Nationwide spokesman said that its rate would rise only if base rates increased again.

Meanwhile, Bradford & Bingley, the second-largest mutual society, which kept its standard variable rate steady at 7.95 per cent last month, said it expects base rates to go up again in January. "We want to maintain our rate advantage over the banks, but just what the gap will be depends on the competitors."

## CAT extends drug trials

By PAUL DURMAN



Chiswell: R&D competition

HUMAN testing of three more potential drugs is expected to begin next year at Cambridge Antibody Technology (CAT), which raised £41 million in a flotation in March, raising to five the number of products in clinical development.

Techniclone, CAT's US partner, will shortly begin recruiting patients for trials of a brain cancer product. The two companies are also planning a separate solid tumour study next year, while CAT expects to begin tests of an antibody to prevent fibrosis, one of the

biggest problems in eye surgery.

David Chiswell, chief executive, said CAT will license in further therapeutic "targets" to ensure internal competition for limited research and development resources.

CAT's R&D spending will total £18 million (£8.3 million) in the year to September 30. With only £11 million (£2.1 million) of revenues, including a payment from Knoll, CAT's partner on rheumatoid arthritis treatment, the company reported a pre-tax loss of £8.4 million (£3.3 million loss).

Cars powered by clean fuel cells on market by 2004

## Ford signs 'green' deal

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CARS, vans and buses powered by environmentally friendly fuel cells could be on the market in 2004, Ford said yesterday as it announced its biggest single investment in green car technology.

Ford - owner of the Lincoln and Jaguar marques - has teamed with Daimler-Benz and Ballard Power Systems of Canada - which has developed fuel cells - to announce a multibillion dollar deal to develop vehicles propelled by the technology.

Fuel cells, which have been used on space missions, turn carbon-based fuels, such as methane hydro-

gen or methanol, into electricity and heat, with water as the by-product.

During the climate conference last week in Kyoto, Japan, where industrial nations signed up to legally binding reductions in emissions in an attempt to contain the threat of global warming, Ford - along with other vehicle makers and oil companies - tried to scupper the agreement, claiming that the science was unproven and that the deal would be economically damaging.

But yesterday a spokesman for the company said that backing alternative "green" power systems was not at odds with its concerns

over the climate deal. "We are quite serious about this. The internal combustion engine has proven difficult to replace. But we believe fuel cells could be the answer. We believe a commercially viable fuel cell vehicle could be on the road by 2004," he said.

The three-way memorandum of understanding, signed in Stuttgart, Germany, involves Ford investing a total of \$420 million (£250 million). The investment includes the purchase of shares in Ballard and a stake in DBB Fuel Cell Engines, and the setting up of a new company called Eco.

Study to recommend same ownership quotas as TV

## Radio rules 'need retuning'

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

A NEW study now being finalised will conclude that commercial radio groups must be able to become considerably larger if current growth in the sector is to be sustained. Nera (National Economic Research Associates) the consultancy group specialising in communications issues, was commissioned this year by the Commercial Radio Companies Association, the industry trade body, to carry out an investigation on the future of radio.

The Nera study is expected to argue that the same ownership rules applied to commercial tele-

vision should apply to radio - something that would allow commercial radio groups to almost double in size. The television rules allow ITV companies to own licences up to 15 per cent of total viewing including the BBC, although there are additional constraints on advertising sales.

Radio ownership is judged on a points system, with points awarded on the number and size of radio licences held. No one group can own more than 15 per cent of points in the system. The key difference with television is that in radio the BBC is excluded from the reckon-

ing. NERA will recommend that the limits on radio ownership should, like television, be based on 15 per cent of listening figures, including BBC figures.

It is also expected to recommend that over the next four years, as digital radio develops, there should be a review of the number of radio frequencies held by the BBC. In the past year, commercial radio companies have increased their profit levels and interest and publicity has surrounded the "merger" between the media interest of Richard Branson, of Virgin, and Chris Evans's Ginger Productions.

Australia \$	2.58	2.41
Austria Sch	21.28	19.68
Belgium Fr	66.87	67.91
Canada \$	2,444	2,256
Cyprus Cyp	0.884	0.882
Denmark Kr	11.81	10.72
Finland Mk	5.28	6.35
France Fr	10.16	9.58
Germany Dm	3.06	2.81
Greece Dr	482	443
Hong Kong \$	14.49	12.29
Iceland Is	120	109
Ireland Ir	1.18	1.08
Israel Sh	6.17	6.32
Italy Lira	2011	2774
Japan Yen	200.35	211.00
Norway Kr	0.673	0.614
Netherlands Gld	3.452	3.157
New Zealand \$	2.91	2.87
Norway Kr	15.60	11.56
Portugal Esc	306.08	288.00
S Africa R	8.59	7.75
Spain Pta	256.28	237.50
Sweden Kr	15.47	12.37
Switzerland Fr	2.40	2.27
Turkey Lira	325.90	314.82
USA \$	1.740	1.597

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



# Always a step away from risk



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

When Sears hired David James as company doctor to sort out its shoe business, it knew what it was getting into. James is famed for a scorched earth policy in which he will spend 99p to release £1 of value. His decision to close down British Shoe Corporation, which at one point sold one shoe in four in the UK, was difficult for Sears' existing management to take, having invested so much time and energy in the business. James could be guaranteed to take the tough decision. And if it was wrong, at least he had a much better chance of getting it right than a Sears insider.

This latest deal has a strange familiarity about it. The purchaser of the Shoe Express chain is Philip Green, who investors will remember with little affection from his days running Amber Day (now known as WEW Group). Two years and 20 days previously, Green was behind another purchase from Sears, that of the Olympian sports goods chain. Sears said it received £53 million for that business and had to make write-offs of £65 million. Even that figure included the repayment of inter-company debt and the transfer of a brand new retail computer system that the purchasers, Sports Division, reckoned was worth most of the acquisition price in itself.

By exiting from that sector, Sears managed to miss out on the boom in sports leisure goods

that has gripped the country — after spending large amounts of time, money and energy developing the perfect business for that boom. Sports Division is now returning to the stock market, its flotation timed for next spring. The valuation is expected to reach £400 million, of which half could be attributed to the Olympian chain, which Sears was so keen to sell.

That disposal spree, of course, included the decision to sell Freeman Hardy Willis and Saxone to Stephen Hinchliffe and his Pacia empire. Those sales, of course, came back to haunt Sears when Pacia collapsed a few months later. David James, showing that he is one of the few businessmen who actually learns something from history, is keen not to repeat the errors of the Pacia deals. Accordingly this sale to Philip Green takes full account of any potential problems that might arise from assigning leases to Alnery, Green's company. Landlords by nature are risk averse, and with the best will in the world, Alnery is not as good a covenant as Sears. James has made sure the deal takes account of any inducements needed to persuade reluctant landlords of the wisdom of the transfer.

So where now for Sears? It is still trying to sell Freeman after Margaret Beckett spoilt its plans to flag it to Littlewoods. It still needs to sell Shoe City and Cable, though those deals cannot be too far off. This will leave a rumour that is largely Selfridges. Of course, given the recent performance of Harvey Nichols, there is a question mark about how valuable a fashion department store actually is. It never rains but it pours.

**Japan wraps a new suspect package**

Japan's Prime Minister seems at last to have got the message. Ryutaro Hashimoto has let it be known that he has another expansion package up his sleeve. He has, it seems, agreed to set up a £50 billion fund to back bank deposits, and to buy stock issues made by banks whose capital has been

washed away by the ebb tide of asset prices. As with all Japan's expansion or rescue packages over the past eight years, it is best not to get carried away by the potential figures. Whatever happened, for instance, to the huge property buy-in that was going to resolve matters once and for all? The OECD, along with the IMF, whose combined initiatives have done so much to wreck the Asian economies, clearly has little to offer. Within six months, it has had to cut its estimate of Japanese recovery this year from 2.3 to 0.8 per cent. For next year, forecasts of growth from the OECD's economists have already come down from 2.9 to 1.7 per cent. They will have to fall even further if Korea's crisis still festers after Thursday's election.

As a long-term cure, the OECD keeps on prescribing the conventional Western solutions that were, for instance, in part responsible for the asset price bubble that has burst in the face

of Japanese consumers. For the short-term, much incoherent throat-clearing and mumbling can be heard emanating from the OECD's Paris headquarters. Monetary easing would be great but there's not much point when interest rates are near zero. So it has to be fiscal expansion. But was it not conventional international wisdom to nag Japan to be more fiscally responsible, cut spending and the budget deficit to prepare for that all-purpose macroeconomic bugbear: an ageing population? Indeed it was.

Now the OECD must hedge against reality. "Nevertheless" it argues, no doubt with a straight corporate face, "in the short-run, greater consideration should be given to possible ways to ease the fiscal stance without losing sight of medium-term objectives". Reverting to the standard script, it then suggests a tax cut.

Lo and behold, Mr Hashimoto is expected to announce one today, though not big enough or

credible enough. "If it's hurting, it's working" John Major used to say. The refrain of pain and deflation will not, however, solve the problems of Korea, let alone Japan, where lack of demand has led to a loss of confidence. Resort to the printing press, with its in-built threat of future inflation, is more likely to get Tokyo's shoppers out on the streets to spend.

**Beauty of bimbos may be skin deep**

Once a company's management loses the confidence of institutional investors, it is hard to regain. That means the share rating is likely to lag behind recovery, prolonging the embarrassment of fund managers. The solution is for some outsider to see value in the company and its executives and mount a takeover with their help.

In the argot of venture capital, these are "bimbos", or buy-in management buyouts. Yesterday, two more were launched. Wellman, the engineering group, promised a brighter future before only to disappoint. Now Jon Moulton's Alchemy group is backing management to make it happen second time round. Cash

flows to big shareholders such as M&G and Mercury. Healthcare, which supplies duty doctors, was a promising new issue, then had a temporary setback that put the cautious off for years. Venture capital, in cahoots with management, is offering cash to the likes of Jupiter and PDEM.

At this time of year, such deals allow fund managers to contemplate the festive redundancy season with better performance figures. Managers and venture capitalists get geared growth, if they have got it right. Everyone wins.

Or do they? When outsiders help managers to buy out a conglomerate's unwanted subsidiary, group bosses should handle any conflict of interest. This is harder when managers of a quoted company back a cash offer. And are these really the sort of companies that institutional investors should cash in at this stage of the cycle?

**Television star**

THE news that Roger Luard is in demand — apparently as a potential chief executive of the Carlton/Granada venture, British Digital Broadcasting — comes as some surprise. The Flextech chief executive is supposed to be "well regarded" in the TV world. But his company has made a profit in only one of the last five years and is valued at ten times its turnover. This is obviously like the sort of financial performance many fear BDB might deliver.

## MFI cuts jobs despite an increase in profits

BY CARL MORTIMER

MFI is on a drive to halt a rise in fixed costs that is holding back a profits recovery.

Britain's largest furniture retailer has laid off 100 staff at 14 branches as it consolidates its home-delivery service at new distribution centres. More redundancies are expected but John Randall, chief executive, poured cold water on reports of 1,000 lay-offs, pointing to growth in the retail chain: "We could end up with more staff in a year's time than we have now."

Shares in MFI rose 4p to 125p as the company reported an 8 per cent rise in sales in the 28 weeks to November 8 with sales per square foot up 6.8 per cent. MFI's gross margin rose almost two points to 35 per cent and the pre-tax profit for

the half year was up 8 per cent to £35.4 million.

However, MFI is having trouble converting the sales and gross margin gain into better net margins and bottom-line profits. Mr Randall said that the current structure of the business meant that growth in sales led to higher costs. "There is an element of inefficiency," he said.

In the half year, staff costs rose almost 10 per cent to £99.2 million as the company added 20 temporary distribution centres to accommodate the company's strategy of converting the core of the business to home delivery.

MFI already has four dedicated distribution centres and an investment of £25 million over the next 18 months will

lead to 12 such facilities and the disappearance of stores and warehouses at MFI's 185 retail outlets.

Mr Randall said: "The objective is to expand our net margin. Last year it was 9 per cent. We want to see it well into double figures." MFI's operating profit as a percentage of sales in the first 28 weeks of the financial year slipped below 8 per cent because of a surge in staff costs and a rise in the depreciation charge.

MFI's French operations showed a small increase in sales but the strength of the pound means that revenues on translation fell 11 per cent with a loss for the period of £2.7 million.

Mr Randall said that Hughes was the number two

in the kitchen brand in France. "Our main problem is that we do not have enough stores," he said.

MFI expects to convert all of its old stores to the new HomeWorks format during the next 18 months with 123 stores out of the 185 total already refitted. The UK retail operations suffer a further 150,000 sq ft of redundant space, leaving 190,000 sq ft still requiring a tenant.

MFI's borrowings were £47.8 million at the end of the period with capital expenditure expected to be £80 million for the full year. Earnings per share were 4.24p and the interim dividend is up 6 per cent to 1.5p.

Times, page 28

## TJ Hughes to open new stores

TJ HUGHES, the discount department store operator, yesterday said that its development programme is accelerating and revealed plans for three store openings (Chris Ayres writes).

The company has seen its share price rise 52p to 121p this year on the back of its ambitious expansion programme. Sales last year were £60 million.

TJ Hughes said a contract had been signed for a new 40,000 sq ft store in Blackburn, Lancashire, which is expected to open in April 1998. It is also opening a store next year in Shrewsbury, and plans to open another in Burnley in autumn 1999. When all projects are completed, TJ Hughes will have 555,000 sq ft of selling space in 21 stores.

## Domecq top pay up, profits down

BY JASON NISSE

TONY HALES, the chief executive of Allied Domecq, enjoyed a 34 per cent increase in his total pay package to £94,000 last year, when the drinks group suffered a fall in its operating profits.

Mr Hales received a performance-related bonus of £154,000, up from £42,000 the previous year. The total performance-related payout for the board rose from £187,000 to £590,000.

During the year Mr Hales was also awarded 93,448 share options at an exercise price of 427.5p each. Yesterday Allied Domecq shares closed at 535p, up 9.5p, valuing these options at £100,000.

In the year to August 31 the group's operating profits slipped from £729 million to £715 million, largely due to disposals. However, pre-tax profits jumped from £264 mil-



Hales: performance rise

lion to £602 million, largely due to the absence of losses made on disposals.

In its annual report Allied Domecq says that performance-related payments are made on the basis of targets for profits before tax, cash management and certain key management objectives.

## Christie's formally enters talks

CHRISTIE'S International has formally entered negotiations with SBC Warburg Dillon Read in connection with a possible bid, valuing the fine art auctioneer at about £500 million, or 300p a share (Jon Ashworth writes). SBC Warburg confirmed that it had made a preliminary offer on behalf of a consortium of private investors.

Reports that the banking house is looking to buy Christie's outright are understood to be incorrect. An offer would only be made subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence and with the recommendation of the Christie's board.

Directors of Christie's agreed to proceed with negotiations at a meeting on Sunday night.

Merrill Lynch International was yesterday appointed joint corporate stock broker with SBC Warburg. Christie's shares fell 12p to 288p. Commentary, this page

## Receivers appointed at Brent Walker

BY CHRIS AYRES

JOHN LEACH, chief executive of Brent Walker, was last night looking for a new job after the debt-laden leisure and property empire finally crumbled and receivers were appointed.

Mr Leach will be joined in his search for work by Keith Dibble, Brent Walker's finance director. Both men effectively destroyed their own jobs by selling off the company's assets in an effort to claw back a significant proportion of its £1.5 billion debt. The receivers appointed yesterday were Scott Barnes and Martin Ellis, partners at Grant Thornton.

The company, a star of the Stock Exchange in the 1980s, nearly collapsed because of debts in 1991. George Walker, the former boxer who founded the business, was ousted from the board shortly afterwards. He later became involved in a prolonged legal dispute with the company.

Brent Walker continued to suffer after Mr Walker's departure and became embroiled in a further legal dispute with Grand Metropolitan over the acquisition of its William Hill betting chain.

Since then, Mr Leach has made a series of disposals. Last year Brent Walker sold Pubmaster, the pub chain, to a syndicate of venture capitalists led by NatWest Ventures for £171 million. The company's disposal programme was completed two weeks ago when it sold William Hill to Nomura for £700 million.



Executives John Stallwood, left, and Andrew Bruce

## Channel pegs payout

CHANNEL HOLDINGS, the electronic systems and security products company, is holding the interim dividend at 0.55p a share despite lifting pre-tax profit to £1.8 million (£1.4 million) in the half year to October 31. The company said it had made progress despite a slow-

## Elan enters agreed bid for Sano of America

BY MARTIN BARROW

ELAN CORPORATION, the drug delivery and biopharmaceutical company based in the Republic of Ireland, has launched an agreed bid for America's Sano Corporation, valuing the company at \$375 million, it was announced yesterday.

Sano develops proprietary and generic products through the use of the company's own delivery systems.

The company, based in Florida, received Food and Drug Administration approval for one generic transdermal product earlier this year and has a portfolio and generic products at various stages of development.

Sano's shares trade on America's Nasdaq market, where its capitalisation has risen above \$248 million at the end of September from \$142.6 million at the end of 1996. The company incurred losses of \$1 million in 1996 and lost \$12.7 million in the first nine months of the current year.

Elan is offering \$35.50 in shares for each Sano share. Elan said the transaction would have a neutral impact on earnings in 1998.

In the first nine months of the current year, Elan, whose shares are listed in London, Dublin and New York, has earned net income of \$123.4 million on revenues of \$270.8 million. In the last full year net income was \$87.2 million. The company is capitalised at around \$5.37 billion.

## Allied Colloids attacked over costs

BY PAUL DURMAN

HERCULES, the American chemicals company bidding £1.1 billion for Allied Colloids, has criticised its target for the time it has taken the Bradford company to get to grips with its costs.

Allied Colloids' defence is based on persuading shareholders that they have yet to see the full benefit of cost-cutting and production efficiency improvements adopted since David Farrar took over as chief executive in July 1995.

However, Hercules yesterday pointed

out that it is now more than three-and-a-half years since Mr Farrar was named as chief executive designate, yet profit margins have declined over the period.

Vincent Corbo, president and chief operating officer of Hercules, said: "The specialty chemicals industry has been at that [improving costs and processes] for some time. But it does not appear to be a strong priority for Allied Colloids."

Mr Farrar has been on the board of Colloids since 1990 and previously ran the US business which, Mr Corbo said, had produced very poor returns on capital.

Hercules also criticised the £244 million Colloids spent on the US acquisition of CFS last year. It said the price included £222 million of good will, which will have to be written off against profits under new accounting rules. It said the deal would dilute earnings and expressed concern about the age of the CFS facilities.

Hercules said Colloids had consistently disappointed with its earnings. Colloids responded that the group had an outstanding record of organic growth and management was already achieving operating margin improvements.

# merry

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## STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

# Shares pick up pace on hopes of seasonal rally

INVESTORS have entered into the spirit of Christmas, ignoring the turbulent events in the Far East.

Brokers say share prices could still enjoy the traditional pre-Christmas rally, with some of them setting a target price of between 5,200 and 5,300. The equity market appeared to grow in confidence as the day wore on, with prices being squeezed higher in thin conditions as the cash market narrowed the gap on a strong future.

The FTSE 100 index closed at its best of the day with a jump of 76.6 to 5,121.8 on total turnover of fewer than 600 million shares.

There was the usual flurry of speculative buying among the banks. Northern Rock rose 14p to 564p with the speculators convinced it will soon be on the receiving end of a bid from Lloyds TSB, up 28p to 705p. Barclays Bank jumped 79p to £17.15 and NatWest Bank put on 21p to 999p on persistent talk the pair may end up merging.

Sedgwick Group saw its shares touch 171p, convinced that it would be on the receiving end of a £1 billion bid from Aon Corporation, the US insurance broker. But Sedgwick went out of its way to denounce weekend reports by saying there had been no talks with Aon. Sedgwick closed 2p better at 150p.

Christie's International came off the boil, falling 12p to 288p after City speculators expressed disappointment at the revised terms from SBC Warburg Dillon Reed of 300p a share. The new terms value the fine art auctioneer at £1 billion and the board must decide whether it is going to accept them.

Grand Metropolitan firmed 3p to 585p and Guinness 2p to 586p as the US Federal Trade Commission removed the final barrier to the merger. But to comply with the FTC, the enlarged company, soon to be renamed Diageo, must dispose of the world rights to Dewar's Scotch and Bombay Dry gin.

Blue Circle Industries enjoyed a new lease of life as the price added 9p to 330p, with the market convinced that the proposed merger of Guinness and GrandMet could be positive for the company. With another constituent required to make up the numbers. It means that BCI may still be able to hold on to its position



The bid for Christie's International, down 12p, disappointed

as a constituent of the top 100 companies.

Newcomer Energis continued to lose ground, falling 3p to 270p. Not only has it failed to clinch a place as a constituent of the FTSE 250 index, but Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, claims the shares are overvalued.

Half-year figures from MFI Furniture came in at the top end of expectations and the

shares responded with a rise of 31p to 125p. John Randall, chief executive, has confirmed a major overhaul of the business is under way.

British Airways took off with a jump of 20p to 572p after SBC Warburg Dillon Reed moved its recommendation from "add" to "buy". Word is that agreement may be close with the European Commission to allow the pro-

posed link-up with American Airlines to proceed.

Link of news on the Abbott Laboratories link-up left Shield Diagnostics 7p lower at 740p. But brokers say the deal should be confirmed this week and may be quickly followed by a full bid for the company. Shield has developed a relatively simple process, Advanced Factor 12, for detecting coronary problems in the early stages through a series of blood tests.

Dealings in Cordiant and Saatchi & Saatchi got under way after the split into two separate companies. Both started life at 112p, with Cordiant touching 112p before finishing 3p easier at 109p, while Saatchi & Saatchi finished 2p cheaper at 110p.

It was the first day of dealings for Property Asset Holdings after a placing by Charles Stanley, the broker, at 71p. The shares started life at 71p before settling at 7p, a premium of 1p.

The abandonment of bid talks left Widgely nursing a fall of 51p to 381p. The mechanical and electronic engineering group is now looking at various ways of enhancing shareholder value.

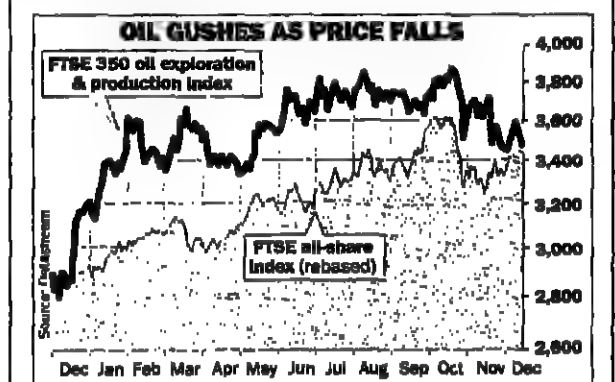
Wellman ended 4p firmer at 401p on news of the agreed terms from Newell, the newly formed investment consortium, which is offering 50p a share. The terms value the engineer at £73 million.

GILT-EDGED: Investors appear to be taking a cautious view of events ahead of the crucial retail sales data expected on Thursday. Analysts say another subdued performance by consumers may be enough to prevent the sixth rate rise since May.

Sentiment was also bolstered by the latest OECD survey showing a further slow-down in economic growth to 2.2 per cent next year.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt was unchanged at £121½ in moderate turnover.

In the futures pit, the March 2021 was 1½ ahead at £122½, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 firmed three ticks to £101½.



OIL GUSHES AS PRICE FALLS

Just days after Merrill Lynch, the broker, cut its oil forecast for next year by \$1 to \$18, so Williams de Bro. its rival, has gone one better and reduced its forecast by \$3 to \$17 a barrel and the sector rating to "underperform" from "outperform".

Peter Hitchens, at WdeB, says that everything looks bleak for the oil companies. Opec's increased quotas, the possibility of more Iraqi oil flooding the market, the problems in the Far East and warmer weather have undermined prospects.

"Everything looks bleak

for the oil price. The outlook for the second quarter looks even worse", he said.

Supply is expected to outstrip demand by around two million barrels a day. This could lead to the price dropping to \$16 a barrel during that quarter.

He is a seller of the sector, but retained weightings should include Shell, up 17p to 447p after a meeting with analysts on Friday.

Others include Enterprise Oil, 2p better at 589p, Hardy Oil & Gas, unchanged at 285p, and Premier, down 4p to 551p.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		
Dow Jones	7817.25	(+48.98)
S&P Composite	957.86	(+4.27)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	19009.39	(+5.09)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	10435.15	(-179.51)
Amsterdam:		
AEX Index	888.78	(+1.04)
Sydney:		
AO	2500.9	(+6.9)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	4060.04	(+22.54)
Singapore:		
Strait Times	1600.64	(+32.34)
Brussels:		
General	13988.87	(+48.62)
Paris:		
CAC-40	2638.27	(+8.01)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	1224.80	(+8.01)
London:		
FT 30		n/a
FTSE 100	5121.8	(+76.6)
FTSE 250	4763.0	(+5.1)
FTSE 350	2662.0	(+3.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2627.40	(+7.22)
FTSE All-Share		n/a
FTSE Non Financials		n/a
FTSE Financials		n/a
FTSE Govt Secs		n/a
Basispt	4997	
SEAD Volume	590.1m	
US\$	1.6392	(+0.0198)
German Mark	2.9904	(+0.0049)
Exchange Index	102.4	(-1.3)
Bank of England official rate (49p)		
ESCU		1.4838
CSX	1.596 Nov (1.7%) Jan 1997=100	
RPI	158.0 Nov (1.2%) Jan 1987=100	

## RECENT ISSUES

Autologic	254p
BO TV	30p
Boustead	20p
Bovis Homes	193p
Capital Opps Trust	113p
Comand Comm	87p
Cresco International	153p
Crain	171p
Forefront Tech Wds	25p
Forefront Technology	85p
General Inds	35p
Gooch & Housego	126p
Manchester & Lon	270p
Manpower	128p
Market Link Publ	75p
Metalsrusia	74p
Northern Rctm	137p
Nottingham Forest	54p
Property Asset	7p
Range Cooker	9p
Rapid Technology	92p
Reckitt Benckiser	102p
SCS Upholstery	111p
Saatchi & Saatchi	110p
Savoy Asset Mgmt	113p
Seascope Shipping	250p
Second Step TV Pl	100p
Second Scottish Natl	100p
Syner	232p
Tetra	175p
Vanguard Med Wls	42p

## RIGHTS ISSUES

FI Group n/p (640)	195
Green Prop n/p (350)	40
Taylor Nat n/p (60)	19p

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISKS:	
Abacus Recruit	205p (+37p)
Adcon	151p (+78p)
PCS Group	310p (+20p)
Hays	804p (+37p)
Barclays	1715p (+76p)
Black Leisure	501p (+23p)
FALLS:	
Heddel	181p (-22p)
Real Time	313p (-14p)
Chadwell Int	288p (-12p)
Canab Pharm	880p (-22p)

Closing Prices Page 31

## TEMPUS Threadbare Coats

THE expected demerger of Coats Viyella could end up looking horribly like the Thorn EMI split. What was billed as an opportunity to disclose hidden value could simply be a means of shuffling off a dud business in a rotten market.

Revealed in its true threadbare glory, the sum of the parts may be no more than the whole.

Coats Viyella will reveal its true intentions later this week but yesterday the company confirmed plans for a demerger of contract clothing and the fashion brands. That will leave the most promising businesses, thread manufacturing and precision engineering, with the group and in theory, relieved of the depressing effect of the apparel businesses, they should prosper. While no one disputes that the engineering and thread businesses ought to sell at a solid premium to their asset value, no one has a clue how to price the

garment businesses which have an appalling profits record. Coats Viyella was slow to shift production offshore to locations in Asia; the depreciation of Far Eastern currencies, competition from cheap imports is likely to get worse as Asian producers scramble for business. Some £450 million of turnover, mainly to Marks & Spencer, ought to have value but it could be as little as 40p in the pound. That leaves the breakup value at 130p, a fragile premium to the current price.

The temptation is for the company to ditch a business that is consistently failed to deliver but that will ill serve investors. Rivals such as Dewhurst are earning solid 7 per cent margins from the rag trade, even in this market and Coats ought to be capable of a decent return. If the demerger offers no strategy to achieve that, it offers no future.

## MFI

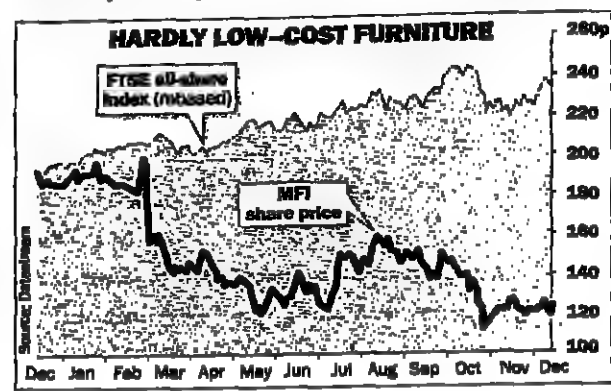
YOU cannot fault MFI for trying to cut costs. The company's sterling efforts to raise margins by increasing sales have been all but ruined by the steady rise in the cost-base. While the half-year figures showed a solid 8 per cent rise in income, staffing costs rose over the same period by 10 per cent and the building programme is taking its toll. MFI's decision to convert all its stores into the new Home-ware concept, keeping the top line moving but the refts are costing the company with the depreciation charge rising by 28 per cent.

According to MFI, the high staff costs relate to transitional warehousing, set up to operate the home delivery service. Plans for shiny new distribution centres will reduce staff numbers but this

leaves the impression of a disorganised expansion, planned on the hoof.

The key question is whether the new MFI stores will deliver the higher margins. Shedding slow moving products sounds good but if MFI narrows its range too far it could end up turning away casual customers who are not ready to buy a new

kitchen or redesign a bedroom. Results over the next 12 months will suffer from further expenditure on distribution and store refts but there is a nagging worry that if MFI spent a fraction of the restructuring money on re-vamping its direct product range, it would achieve the desired sales gain at less cost. There are better retailers.



HARDLY LOW-COST FURNITURE

## Gold hedging

AVOCET MINING'S decision to liquidate its hedging position poses an interesting puzzle. Avocet had about 180,000 ounces locked in at average prices of \$385 an ounce and given the fall in the price, it found itself with a theoretical gain of almost \$14 million which it has realised to reduce its borrowings. The huge liquidity in the gold market — banks still hold big stocks — means that it is very cheap to borrow, making it possible to sell forward for several years. Rates for gold loans are only 1 per cent to 2 per cent and the heavy forward hedging by goldminers has contributed to the steady fall in the metal's price.

Why then are mining companies, like Ashanti and producers in Southern Africa, still digging metal out of the ground at huge expense? Many African producers cannot mine gold profitably at \$280 per ounce, but they have sensibly taken out forward

contracts at much higher prices that protect them from loss. Logically, such companies should shut down the mines and buy gold at the spot price of \$280 and realise an immediate gain against their hedged positions of \$350 or more.

By continuing to produce gold from the ground, the mining companies are digging their own graves. Stocks are huge and investors should stay away. It is interesting to note that Avocet is now selling forward at \$290. A bearish signal if there ever was one.

## ML Labs

ML LABORATORIES keeps telling the world it is making solid progress but its shares continue to fall, now lower than at any time for six years. From the company's perspective, its problems are minor: a delay in recruiting patients for a phase III trial of an AIDS drug, and a temporary problem obtaining the

vaccine needed for tests of its prostate cancer drug. Yes, profits have fallen sharply, but that's irrelevant because they are dependent on volatile milestone payments rather than genuine sales or royalties.

This is disingenuous. A few months ago, Panumra Gordon, ML's broker, which had been looking for £100 million of profits by the turn of the decade, suddenly (but forecast) reduced its 1997 forecast to zero. The broker had caught wind of the delays, yet ML gave no warning to its shareholders.

This points to an anomaly. Even small delays can have a huge impact on the discounted cashflow models used by the City to value ML. Yet managements do not feel the need to disclose such a delay as they would a conventional trading problem.

Such consideration suggests that ML's shares may not be as cheap as they look.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

## COMMODITIES

LIFFE			
COCOA			
Dec	1120-1114	Mar	1213-1231
Mar	1140-1147	May	1249-1243
May	1168-1166	Jul	1302-1306
Jul	1183-1181	Sep	1280-1272
Sep	1190-1198		
Dec	1214-1212	Volume	7066
ROBUSTA COFFEE (R)			
Jan	1620-1618	Sep	1760-1768
Mar	1651-1658	Nov	1780-1788
May	1675-1678	Jan	1806-1807
Jul	1695-1698	Volume	9087
WHITE SUGAR (FOR)			
Reuters		Oct	
Sep	200-0-0	Dec	
Mar	200-0-0	Mar	210-0-0
May	200-0-0	May	213-0-0
Aug	200-0-0	Volume	597
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION			
Average faiscop prices at representative markets on December 12			



## Venture capitalists stake their money on a numbers game

A bingo hall would seem an unlikely place to find a venture capitalist. Despite efforts to put forward a more modern image and draw younger crowds — measures that have led to the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds — bingo is hardly a sexy investment, not on a par with a biotechnology start-up or an Internet trailblazer.

The venture capitalists think otherwise. Yesterday, PPM Ventures, the Prudential's venture capital arm, backed a £270 million management buy-in at Gala, the bingo arm of Bass. Last month, Hambro European Ventures bought 19 bingo clubs from Vardon for £30.5 million and venture capitalists have been tipped as possible bidders for the clubs owned by First Leisure, which have attracted disposal rumours.

Their interest comes despite falling profits in the industry, dominated by Gala and Mecca, which is hit hard by the introduction of the National Lottery and, in particular, lottery scratchcards. Operat-

ing profits at Gala fell from £31 million in the 1995-96 financial year. In the 1996-97 period, this had fallen to £24 million.

Jimmy Thomas, chairman of the Bingo Association of Great Britain, claims the venture capitalists smell an imminent change in the way bingo halls are taxed.

He says the industry has been hammered by a 10 per cent betting levy, taken from the stake only, while other forms of gambling have seen taxation fall below this level. Despite their falling income, bingo companies have been obliged by competition not to drop their prize money, he says. Pressures of this sort prompted Bass to write down the value of its Gala clubs by £177 million earlier this month.

The new Labour Govern-

ment, Mr Thomas feels, may be more likely to lower the bingo tax. In the meantime, he says: "There are now about 250 clubs at risk of closing if there isn't some change in taxation." These include small town-centre halls that are often located in areas where unemployment is already

high. About 100 clubs have closed since the National Lottery started, involving the loss of about 3,200 jobs, says Mr Thomas.

But what do the venture capitalists themselves have to say? Alistair Mackintosh of PPM Ventures, which is not revealing the equity structure

of the management buy-in at Gala, says the chance of a tax change was never a motivation. Nor is the Gala deal a covert property play, aimed at getting hold of the more attractive sites in the Gala portfolio.

He says the deal makes sense because the effect of the National Lottery on takings

One leisure analyst says Rank stands out from the other big operators as the most committed investor in bingo: "It has kept on plugging in money and effort."

"They have roughly the same number of sites as Bass had but I think they have been more selective with their acquisition of sites."

He said Bass's progress in rolling out the bigger, purpose-built clubs, often on the edge of towns, was hampered by weaker returns from older sites, such as converted cinemas.

It is widely held that the newer, larger, "flat floor" sites are the way forward. They can offer restaurants, bars and car parking — the latter being vital for older, more vulnerable clientele at night.

They appear to have had some success in driving down the average age of the bingo punter, but there is scepticism about how far this could go. One analyst concludes: "People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco."

ADAM JONES

### 'People are still not going to pop in to bingo on their way to the disco'

## American booksellers offer Britain chapter and verse on the future

Independents face threat from US methods and stores, says Ian Brodie

Every Saturday, and often during the week, my local bookshop in Washington suburbs is packed. It is a Borders superstore that is vast yet also warm and inviting.

Browsing is positively encouraged. Armchairs and sofas are scattered about. There are no hassles if you loiter at the maze of magazine racks or sneak a look at the latest American and foreign newspapers and then quietly put them back on the shelf.

Every day sees a special event, from rap sessions with authors to readings for local poets and performances by instrumental groups. You can dawdle over a cappuccino while leafing through books that have caught your fancy from the 150,000 titles on offer.

It is known as a place for chance encounters and some lone readers discreetly eye the possibilities, finding the atmosphere far less pressured than a singles bar. It is also a draw for families with a spacious children's section displaying an irresistible array of books and toys just waiting to be picked up. The music department has a hundred sets of headphones for sampling CDs from pop to an extensive range of jazz, classics and new age.

The Borders experience is known in the book trade as "destination shopping". The aim is to make going to Borders an outing, rather than just ripping into a shop to buy a book.

Amazingly, there are now 200 Borders in America plus a further 469 similar superstores owned by Barnes and Noble. Both firms compete aggressively and continue to expand rapidly. The consequences for bookselling in the US are profound and are



Browsing is encouraged in the new-style bookshops where spacious children's sections are proving a draw for families

starting to affect Britain, where the trade is in a volatile phase. The first British Borders will open next June in Leeds. If that goes well, London will probably be next. Last September, Borders bought Books Etc, the British independent chain, just as it was about to go public.

Speculation has grown that Barnes and Noble is surveying the British market and even scouting locations. A spokesman for the company said there were no specific plans to extend internationally, but she admitted: "I'm sure we have people exploring possibilities and feasibility overseas."

Barnes and Noble could more than match Borders' stake in Britain by making a bid for Waterstone's. Its parent, WH Smith, wants to spin off the chain in the spring. Meanwhile, Waterstone's has opened a Borders-style store in Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, and it is doing better than expected.

Many American book-lovers are pleased by the enticing new bookshops carrying thousands of volumes, but there is a gloomy side to the spread of these "category killers". The share of volumes sold by independent bookshops has dropped in the past four years from one in four to one in five. At least several hundred independents have been forced to close, according to Avin Mark Donmiz, director of the American Booksellers Association, who said: "It's my opinion that a significant portion of those losses were because of competition brought on by chains."

His association alleges that American publishers improperly sell books to chains on advantageous terms. One result is unbundled discounting of retail prices. Mr Donmiz predicted a similar upheaval in Britain with the loss of the Net Book Agreement.

Some independents are hitting back successfully. Elaine Petrocelli was chosen as Pub-

lishers Weekly's bookseller of the year for the panache of the shop Book Passage that she runs with her husband Bill in the well-to-do environs north of San Francisco. They have a welcoming ambience that equals Borders.

In Atlanta, Barbara Babbitt Kaufman has taken on the giants by offering deep discounts in her thriving local chain of 11 shops. In deliberate contrast to "destination shopping", she emphasises the convenience of her branches in suburban neighbourhoods, with easy parking and quick access.

Bookselling has also entered the realm of the Internet. Amazon.com calls itself "Earth's biggest bookstore" with an online catalogue of 2.5 million titles, equivalent to 40 New York phone books. Jeff Bezos founded the firm in his garage two-and-a-half years ago. This

year his sales for the third quarter were \$38 million, a 36 per cent increase over the previous quarter, but his net loss was \$8.5 million.

Mr Bezos said he was still losing money because of heavy investment for the future in infrastructure, marketing and distribution. He predicted that 10 to 15 per cent of books worldwide will eventually be sold on the Web. Amazon.com went public last May, floating for \$18 million. It is now worth \$30 million. Barnes and Noble has launched a Web site that is expected to break even in 1999. Borders will venture into cyberspace next year.

Borders and Barnes and Noble both had similar beginnings. Brothers Tom and Louis Borders started in Michigan 25 years ago and 14 years later opened a second branch. After installing chairs, they found customers enjoyed loafing and sales went up. The brothers revolutionised inventory management with com-

puters, enabling them to acquire thousands of titles. They grew to five stores and then sold out to K-Mart, a discount retailing conglomerate that launched Borders nationally and let it go public two years ago under its chief executive officer, Bob DiRomualdo.

Leonard Riggio began his bookselling career while attending New York University in the early 1960s. As an assistant in the university bookshop, he was convinced he could do better and opened a competing shop in Greenwich Village.

Mr Riggio had grown to six college bookstores by 1971 when he bought Barnes and Noble on Fifth Avenue, an institution that had fallen into decline. He transformed it into the "world's biggest bookstore" that serves as the model for today's superstores.

Barnes and Noble also owns more than 500 B. Dalton book shops in shopping malls while Borders owns Waldenbooks, another mail retailer with more than 900 shops.

Mr Riggio has declared a goal of 1,100 superstores by 2000 while Borders opens a new branch on average every ten days. The costs of such razor-thin earnings, but both chains enjoyed a 15 per cent increase in third-quarter sales compared with a year ago of \$480 million for Borders and \$614 million for Barnes and Noble. Wall Street remains encouraged that the firms have underlying profitability.

Still, some wonder who is buying all these books and how many are sent back under sale-or-return agreements with publishers. Yet Barnes and Noble has found an intriguing trend in readers' tastes.

The company has revealed that so-called bestsellers account for less than 3 per cent of its sales while titles from smaller publishers, independents and university presses continue to grow. Purchases from the top ten publishers have declined to 46 per cent of the total compared with 75 per cent just three years ago, reflecting a wider range of customer interest in lesser-known works of serious fiction and non-fiction than was previously recognised.

### MARKETING

## Blair may hold the key to a common market

This is a story about a marketing director slipping through the grasp of the French legal system, an obscure Greek ban on toy advertising, a flagrant challenge to the Treaty of Rome and a cry for help to Tony Blair.

The starring role, however, goes to marketing and the saga of how red tape is threatening to slowly, but surely, throttle the very life out of it. In the past few days the convergence of a number of factors has forced the issue of Brussels interference with the marketing industry to centre stage.

Last week the European Commission balked at taking action against member countries that have banned various marketing activities. In order for the bans to be lifted, the College of Commissioners has to recommend the cases to the European Court of Justice. Yet despite being presented with what appears to be *prima facie* evidence of a breach of a central tenet of the Treaty of Rome — the right of a company to market its goods freely within a single market — the 20 commissioners will not budge.

A spokeswoman said: "The commissioners have to be convinced, and they, in turn, have to convince the court. These sort of complex legal matters do take time."

It is an excuse that doesn't wash with the Advertising Association. Lionel Stanbrook, its deputy director-general, said: "The whole point of a single market was to pull down the barriers to trade so you don't have to think about a different set of rules for each country. But these people [the commissioners] think marketing is an extension of social policy."

His wrath is focused on three controversial laws that, at the time of their introduction, were hailed as crusading pieces of social legislation in France, Germany and Greece.

France's *Loi Evin*, a ban on alcohol advertising that is activated only after receipt of a complaint, was introduced to combat teenage drinking. Germany's limits on sales promotions were to protect consumers from confusing and misleading price promotions and loyalty schemes. And Greece's restrictions on toy advertising were, in part, a reaction to the prospect of an unrelenting diet of American-style Barbie and Ken ads.

Whether it is France trying to impose a 1 per cent tax on all direct marketing or Sweden banning marketing to children under 12, everyone is out to throw grit in the marketing engine. Last week the oddly-named ISDN directive was given the green light and could be law within months. It proposes that people can opt out of their directory information being used for telemarketing and direct mail purposes. A company would need prior consent before communicating with that particular person by the phone or post, thereby forcing companies to work within an impossible framework.

"We're not advocating a free-for-all. But if one thing is legal in one country then it should be legal in another," said Mr Stanbrook.

Marketing, it seems, is the outlaw of today's Europe.

JULIAN LEE

## Inaction 2000

RICHARD BRANSON'S old mate, Don Cruickshank, is clearly not a man to be hurried. The outgoing Ofel boss has said that his role as the new head of the Government's Action 2000 will be "raising the tempo" of awareness of the millennium bug. But isn't Cruickshank taking a rather soft, softy approach?

Asked when Action 2000's web site and telephone hotline would be operational, Cruickshank answered "sometime in the new year", later admitting that Action 2000 was not prepared to answer calls yet. The task

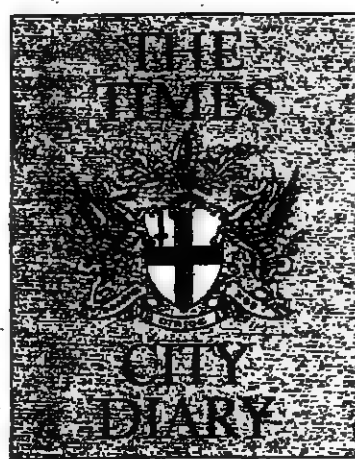
force has yet to finalise its budget for next year and has not even appointed a full-time director (Don will be working only one day a week).

But does this bother Cruickshank? Not a jot. He hasn't even appointed an acting director and says he thinks a wait of three months is reasonable to find the right person for the role. I assume Action 2000 will be up and running in time for the millennium.

□ THIS will all be music to the ears of those at Railtrack. Cruickshank has threatened to fine utilities which are not making adequate preparations for the millennium bug. But Railtrack tells me it has set up a Rail Millennium Project Office, headed by David Rayner, Railtrack's former head of safety, and funded to the tune of £1.5 million. "That's £500,000 more than the Government has spent," a spokeswoman boasts.

### Mace bonus

A HEART-WARMING tale for Christmas. The three founders of Mace, the construction project manager, are offering their staff up to 15 per cent of the company at cost. According to the chairman, Ian Macpherson, the move is an attempt to preserve the independence of Mace,



which has recently received a number of bid approaches from large builders. But Macpherson, who set up Mace less than eight years ago with two colleagues and has seen it grow from eight staff to 450, is keen to maintain the group's independence for the future. He plans to offer another tranche in 1999 and another three or four years afterwards.

□ FULL marks to Deborah Dore of the Bermuda International Business Association, who, having read of the Geoffrey Robinson affair, contacted us with a glossy brochure on the advantages of setting up trusts in Bermuda. "Bermuda has acquired an exemplary reputation as a discrete and secure jurisdiction for asset pres-

ervation and wealth management," it boasts. I will pass on the brochure when we find out who, indeed, are the trustees of Orion Trust.

### Shopaholics

DAVID JAMES and Philip Green, who spent most of last week haggling over Sears' Shoe Express operation, spent most of yesterday haggling over who worked hardest. Green tells me he was up all night on Tuesday and Thursday, and in at the weekend, while, James, who turned 60 earlier this month, says he only managed to get home on Thursday night. "I've not worked so hard since the Danair rescue," James tells me. That does not sound encouraging for Sears.

### So forgetful

I NOTICE an interesting similarity between the advertisement published yesterday on behalf of Dresdner RCM Global Investors (the new name for Kleinwort Benson Investment Management), showing a steel forge, and a similar advert run last year by Nabarro Nathanson, the lawyers, also showing a steel forge. Can it be a coincidence that both use the same advertising agency, Cengage Albert Frank?

### Split personality

I TRUST that Sir Colin Marshall is taking a well-earned rest this Christ-

mas. According to my calculations the CBI president has eight company directorships, including a handful of chairmanships, which is why there has been a little misunderstanding at Siebe.

Sir Colin is supposed to take over from Barrie Stephens at the helm of the Windsor-based electronics group next year, but Barrie wants to hang up his hat in February and Sir Colin says he will not be free then.

To solve this problem Sir Philip Beck is stepping in as temporary chairman. Not that he has all that much free time. He is already as director of Delta, Railtrack and Kitagawa Europe.

JASON NISSÉ



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"It's Imelda Marcos with a last-minute bid"



THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

هكذا من الأصل



# Equities end at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	1997	Low	Company	Price	Change
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>BANKS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>BREWERIES, PUBS &amp; REST</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>BUILDING &amp; CONSTRUCT</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>CHEMICALS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>DISTRIBUTORS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	1997	Low	Company	Price	Change
<b>ENGINEERING VEHICLES</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>FOOD MANUFACTURERS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>INSURANCE</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>INVESTMENT TRUSTS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>LEISURE &amp; HOTELS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>MINING</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>OIL &amp; GAS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>RETAILERS FOOD</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>RETAILERS GENERAL</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>SHORTS (under 5 years)</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>LONGS (over 15 years)</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>UNDATED</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	1997	Low	Company	Price	Change
<b>PHARMACEUTICALS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>PRINTING &amp; PAPER</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>PROPERTY</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>TEXTILES &amp; APPAREL</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>TRANSPORT</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>WATER</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET</b>									
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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# Masters of a surreal universe

The National Film Theatre is devoting a season to Russian cinema. Carol Allen talks to one of its pioneer directors

Sergei Bodrov's film *Prisoner of the Mountains* is a useful illustration of what is happening in Russian cinema today. First there is the story itself, which could not possibly have been made in pre-glasnost days. The first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, it tells of two Russian soldiers captured by a Chechen village elder, who hopes to exchange them for his son, held prisoner by the Russians. It is based on a story written by Tolstoy 150 years ago. As Bodrov says: "Same people, same war, same country."

"For 150 years Russia and Chechnya have had a difficult relationship. I didn't want to make a human story. I didn't want to take sides. I never mention in the movie that it's Chechnya but it's clear that I am sceptical about the Russian role in this, and that would have been enough to get it banned in the old days."

The director speaks from experience. A writer for the satirical publication *Krokodil* in the 1970s, where he became an expert at what he terms "writing between the lines", he attempted to do the same thing when he turned to writing screenplays, but found that the directors who shot his films, eager not to fall foul of the censor, were excising the irony and just using the plot lines, turning them into films that were often applauded as popular comedies.

"But I was ashamed," says Bodrov. "I wanted to say something serious and so I wanted to direct." The director's credit was removed from his first film, because it upset the authorities. That was in 1985 when Gorbachev had just come to power, but before the reforms began to bite. Two years later his second, *Non-Professionals*, was initially banned because it mentioned Afghanistan.

The first film overtly to tackle the Afghan war was Vladimir Bortko's *Afghan Breakdown*, which was approved in 1988 but did not reach the screen until early 1992, by which time the Soviet Union had collapsed. Both *Prisoner of the Mountains*, which opens in Britain in February, and *Afghan Breakdown* are featured in the National Film Theatre's current season of contemporary Russian cinema.

A more honest depiction of Russia at war is by no means the only theme to emerge in post-glasnost cinema. As Ian Christie, the compiler of the NFT season, explains:

"First of all there was the looking back and the facing up to the present, asking, how did we get to this dreadful situation? Is it *Easy to Be Young?* in 1987 was a Latvian film which was shown all over Russia and caused a crisis of national self-confidence. It's a documentary which shows that young people had completely lost faith in all the institutions. *Repentance* was about not having dealt with the legacy of Stalin, and *Little Vera* was a very frank portrayal of a dysfunctional Soviet family, which showed just how miserable life had become. Then there's the hallucinatory fantasy films which developed in the late 1980s, as if that were the only way to deal with the absurdities and the paradoxes of the Soviet regime. For example, *The Kerosene Seller's Wife*, directed by the actor Aleksandr Kaidanovskiy, is a bit like David Lynch or David Cronenberg, full of grotesque images, using fantasy to say that the Soviet Union is a surreal universe and there's no point in trying to make sense of it."

In the 1990s the understandable fascination with the past has continued, with a particular interest in the 1930s. Examples in the NFT season include Mikhailov's Oscar-winning *Burnt by the Sun* and *Hammer and Sickle*, an absurdist projection of Stalin's edict: "If the Motherland needs soldiers we'll make soldiers, and if it needs mothers, we'll make them," which involves a sex change from heroine to hero.

Russian cinema, however, faces two practical challenges with which film-makers in the West are all too familiar. Along with the freedom to make the films that they want, the removal of state finance means film-makers have the problem of raising the money. In the early glasnost days cinema enjoyed something of a boom, with the reduction in state funding being made up partly by the Russian Mafia, which used films to launder money.

But much of the new free cinema failed to appeal to the Russian audience, who once went to the cinema more often than Americans. They started turning to television, where ironically some of the most popular programmes are now old Russian movies. Many cinemas have either fallen into disrepair or have been turned into car showrooms and other commercial enterprises. As in other formerly communist countries, the film-makers who are surviving are having to



A scene from Bodrov's *Prisoner of the Mountains*, the first major film to deal with the conflict in Chechnya, based on a Tolstoy story

learn the business side of film: how to make distribution deals, co-productions deals, video and television sales and, most importantly, keep control of costs.

Bodrov raised the money for *Prisoner of the Mountains* in Kazakhstan, and shot it in neighbouring Dagestan, only two hours' walk from where the fighting was still taking place. He had also by then learnt the importance of listening to his audience, remembering remarks made to him after screenings of *Freedom is Paradise*, his 1989 film about children in reform school, which did much to establish his international reputation.

"The audience would say: 'We know you're making really good movies, but they're so dark and our lives are so tough now. Remember your old wonderful comedies? We want to laugh, we want another kind of movie.' You must understand though, we made those dark movies because we were burning to tell the stories which had been forbidden. When we got this freedom nobody knew for how long it would continue."

*Prisoner of the Mountains*, however, hit a popular emotional nerve in Russia and pulled in the domestic audience. It was also nominated for the best foreign film Oscar last

spring. There is still a dark streak in contemporary Russian cinema, but film-makers are beginning to lighten up and win back more of their domestic audience. Two comedies chosen by Christie for his season illustrate this.

"*Peculiarities of National Hunting* was a huge popular success. It's incredibly funny and was highly controversial, in that even as people went to see it they said: 'This portrays us as a nation of hopeless drunks. Should we be laughing at it?'"

There's also *Everything Will Be OK* by a new film-maker, Astrakhan, which is a 'feel-good' social

comedy dealing in a very witty way with the absurdities of the new Russia, such as commercialism. For Bodrov, who now lives mainly in the United States with his American wife, a whole new world of film-making possibilities has opened up. "I have good stories to make in America. I want to make a movie in China and in India, and some day I will make a movie of living in an Iron Curtain prison, I'm enjoying my life and the fact that I can work everywhere."

Russia in the Shadows continues at the NFT, South Bank (0171-428 3333) until December 31

## BRIEFLY NOTED

### Factory to close?

OPERA: One of Britain's most pioneering opera companies, Opera Factory, has told its supporters that its next show will probably be its last. The company, founded 15 years ago by the Australian director David Freeman, loses its Arts Council grant from the 1998-99 season. Its final offering will be a new commission, *And the Snake Sheds its Skin*, by Habib Faye, presented at the Drill Hall in London in April. But even that production is in doubt: £20,000 towards the staging has yet to be raised.

GALLERIES: Ten readers of *The Sun* are to have their portraits of the Royal Family exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery. The show, which opens tomorrow and runs to January 25, displays the winners of a competition organised by the newspaper. More than 200 readers entered, their portraits ranging from oils and watercolours to pencil sketches and embroidery. Peter Grant, a former Butlin's portrait painter, received the £1,000 first prize.

POP: Still they rock on. The Rolling Stones keep up the amazing momentum of their "twilight years" with a Wembley Stadium show in front of 72,000 on August 20 next year. Part of their *Bridges to Babylon* world tour, it will be the eleventh time that the Stones have appeared at Wembley Stadium — a record exceeded only by Michael Jackson (15 shows). Also returning to Wembley Stadium next year — for the sixth time — will be Elton John: he plays two *Face to Face* shows with Billy Joel next June.

THEATRE: After *Wilde* the movie comes *Wilde* the stage show. A highlight of the Almeida Theatre's spring season will be the world premiere of *The Judas Kiss* by David Hare: a play about Oscar, Bosie... and betrayal. Liam Neeson takes the part of Wilde, and Sir Richard Eyre directs an Almeida show for the first time — although the performances will not be at the Islington theatre, but at the Playhouse in the West End. *The Judas Kiss* opens on March 19 for a six-week season, followed by a probable transfer to Broadway.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC: Barry Millington on two London orchestral concerts

Gidon Kremer recently suggested that there was a tendency to regard Brahms's music as "fat", preferring his own slimmer-toned interpretation of the Violin Concerto. James Levine unquestionably adheres to the fat view of Brahms, and the first of his three Festival Hall concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra was an unashamed celebration of amplitude.

### More than ample

Puritanical as it would be to criticise this approach to Brahms as intrinsically misguided — even in view of all the recent attempts to recapture the kind of sonorities the composer would have imagined — Levine's readings failed to convince even on their own terms. His abiding vice,

in terms of symphonic structures, is his inability to shape them into a coherent unity. He lives for the moment and cares little for the consequences. Thus, in the first movement of the Fourth Symphony we were offered warm, succulent string tone and bursts of radiant lyricism, but the tempo relationships were so bizarrely conceived that the orchestra never settled down.

The tempo wandered alarmingly in the Andante too, where pointed phrasing and hushed passages began to seem unduly self-conscious. The Scherzo was brutal and heavy, lacking charm or even — in spite of the pace — real energy. The passacaglia finale, which should have tied all the ends together, seemed more undisciplined than ever, and with the brass used as a battering ram, orchestral blends never stood a chance.

Maxim Vengerov's approach to the Violin Concerto is neither "fat" nor "thin". Rather he brings to it an irresistible eloquence and lyricism that conquer all. At first it looked as though he would tame Levine's brute force, and indeed there was some sublime playing in the first movement, particularly when Vengerov was free to rhapsodise. As a whole, however, the movement failed to convince because it was simply structurally unsound. If it is made to sound like a succession of beautiful moments with no linking thread, the composer has not been well served.

A very slow tempo for the Adagio is sustainable provided the orchestral accompaniment does not give the impression of rearing water. That impression was not always avoided here, but the divinely inspired singing quality of Vengerov's tone carried the day, as did his virtuoso brilliance in the gypsy finale. Introducing her *Clarinet Concerto*, receiving its London premiere at the Barbican on Thursday, Diana Burrell made it clear that the tradi-

tional Beethovenian heroic gestures of the individual pitted against the world were not for her. Rather the soloist, here the Northern Sinfonia's excellent principal clarinetist, Robert Plane, engages in constructive dialogue with the orchestra, offering it new ideas which are picked up and discussed.

These ideas are graphically and robustly exchanged, however. Burrell has a penchant for pithy instructions in the score, reminiscent of Percy Grainger — "Short and spiky", "Celebratory, Strong" — and the music has a corresponding directness that is most refreshing.

In the slower middle section the soloist introduces a disturbing element with growing multiphonics. The orchestra's response is an admirably observed evocation of urban life that is enacted on several levels simultaneously.

The more celebratory aspect emerges strongly near the end where horns and trumpets are finally given their head, though for the most part the Concerto is sparsely scored. The Northern Sinfonia under its artistic director, Jean-Benoît Pommier, made a convincing job of it all, enabling Plane to give an assured and persuasive account of the solo role.

In Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, Pommier himself was the soloist, directing from the keyboard. His fingerwork was nimble and often refined, even if some of the orchestral playing was too brazenly highlighted. Solo passages frequently loomed too large and textural detail needed to be more processed and suggestive.

A similar flaw was evident in Schumann's Symphony No 2, with some episodes of the first movement failing to blend in ideally, and the atmosphere of mystery in the slow movement compromised by playing that was competent rather than outstanding. Pommier put his forces through their paces in the Scherzo, however — a test that they passed with flying colours — and the finale built to a resonant and satisfying conclusion.

## POP: Highlights of a world music weekend. Plus pop-folk for the faithful

### Clashing cultural symbols

A Worsled weekend can often remind one of John Masfield's poem *Cargoes* — a global shipment of emeralds and amethysts, topazes and gold moirés of the musical variety, and plenty of "firewood, ironware and cheap tin trays" on sale at the myriad stalls on the fringe.

There was no "quinquennial of Nineveh" but, from strife-torn Mogadishu, after a seven-month walk across the Horn of Africa with her five children to escape the recent civil war in Somalia, came Maryam

Worsled Global Spirit Barbican

Mursal and her band Weaberl. Timeless and passionate, their powerful chants and acoustic rhythms drew on centuries of cross-fertilisation between nomadic African and Arabic tribes.

On the free stage in the foyer Justin Valli from Madagascar performed thrilling melodies

on the valiha, a tubular zither made from bamboo, while the conservatory stage revealed the soulful Djivan Gasparyan from Armenia with his duduk, a reedy woodwind instrument of plaintive beauty.

Much of the excitement in world music comes from cultural seepage along music's trade routes. Now based in Belgium, Zap Mama's journey from Zaire has resulted in the best kind of synthesis — swooping tribal voices and ancient capella harmonies, elements of hip-hop rhythms and the funky stage presence of Marie Launne.

From Kenya Geoffrey Oryema was not so much a fusion of cultures as a clash of them. He began with a series of mesmerising tunes on traditional East African instruments but then introduced keyboards and guitar and offered a series of contemporary songs that could have graced a James Taylor album. He has a remarkable voice but the effect was schizophrenic. Blekhal Mufji, an Aboriginal band from Australia's Northern Territory, were also disappointing — conventional rock with didgeridoo and a few slogans about land rights. Yet what right do Western critics have to demand that ethnic performers remain in a cultural ghetto and eschew outside influences?

One of the highlights of Global Spirit turned out to be a home-grown act. Ghostland, playing only their second live date, combined powerful rock elements with sweeping strings, Celtic-influenced melodies and Arabic drones. This eclectic musical backdrop was augmented by guest singers Naitacha Atlas, with a voice redolent of the souks and Sinead O'Connor, whose rich backing vocals on the mantra-like *Guide Me God* created one of the most memorable moments in a musical mystery tour of a magical weekend.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

### Star's turn

YOU know you are in the presence of royalty when the opening applause is prompted, not by the entrance of the star herself, but by the arrival of the head of her fan club. Clive Davis writes, when Naima Simone arrived on stage at the end of the Global Spirit festival, she could have won a standing ovation simply by slipping out of her extravagant fur coat.

The music did not entirely live up to the grandiose preliminaries, but there is no point expecting mere consistency from Simone's concerts. Trying to deliver an objective assessment is made more difficult by the sycophantic response of her audience. She played shamelessly to them at times, at one point veering into an over-ripe, up-tempo arrangement of *My Way*. Yet such is the force of her personality that the song ultimately came across as a bald statement of fact.

Although she did not look in the best of health, the good news was that she seemed in unusually good spirits, trading banter and, at the close, encouraging a sing-along on *My Baby Just Cares For Me*. There is no denying, though, that her singing has lost much of its lustre. Amid the whoops of delight from the stalls, it was almost distressing to hear her negotiating the melody of *I Loves You Porgy*. Only the shadow of the voice was left, yet it was still a strangely compelling experience.

The programme moved at its own idiosyncratic pace, an initial sequence of gospel numbers, including *If You Pray Right*, giving way to a halting version of *Here Comes the Sun*. An entirely redundant drum and percussion duel gave her an opportunity to slip backstage before she returned with the coy lyrics of *Sugar in My Bowl* and a reading of *Baltimore* that smuggled in a reggae beat halfway through.

### Dulled by polish

CONSIDERING that they last played live five years ago, and that this tour had already been postponed twice, it was amazing that so many devotees still turned up to catch ethereal pop-folk group the Sundays in Islington on Thursday night. But several hundred of the faithful dutifully packed out the pews of London's most atmospheric music venue.

Not that the band delivered a flawless set. It was just such a rare treat to hear Harriet Wheeler's extravagantly beautiful singing voice in public after so lengthy a hiatus. Wheeler and her partner, guitarist David Gavurin, form the creative nucleus of the Sundays, although their live line-up incorporates three extra musicians to beef up their floaty, shimmering sound.

The first number was a graceful and leaden reading of the band's formerly fleet-footed breakthrough single from 1989, *Can't Be Sure*. Indeed, for much of the set clattering drums and intrusive guitars drowned Wheeler's sublimely elegant warble. The best tunes featured just a skimming acoustic guitar or sparring instrumentation.

Tellingly, these tunes and most of the other highlights date back to the band's mar-

The Sundays: great voice, shame about the sparkle



vellous debut album, *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic*. After two further albums of increasingly timid and conservative fare, the Sundays have recently taken on a more sleepy and suburban demeanour. Thus the newer songs in their set, with the notable exception of the effective recent single *Summertime*, were undeniably crafted and competent but lacked the old urgent sparkle. As the last wave of polite rapture faded, it was hard not to wish for a little less polished maturity.

STEPHEN DALTON

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Jane Benham Hay's *England and Italy* (1859), rediscovered by Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn to form an important part of the show they have put together for Manchester City Art Galleries

## Respect for a spurned sisterhood

In the blinkered view of its founding members, the Pre-Raphaelite movement had no room for women artists. The young rebels who banded together in 1848 were all male, and underlined their gender by calling themselves a brotherhood. They may have worshipped women obsessively, but Pre-Raphaelite men were less enthusiastic if the female mouse wanted to become a practitioner.

This reluctance to acknowledge any female contribution has distorted our understanding of the Pre-Raphaelite achievement. When the Tate Gallery mounted its hugely popular survey of the movement in 1984, only one woman was included: the tragically short-lived Elizabeth Siddal. And her three small works were overshadowed by the fact that she married Dante Gabriel Rossetti and served as a blanching model for paintings as celebrated as Millais' *Ophelia*. Even today, we know Siddal best as the listless, doomed figure singing as she drowns in the lower-strewn brook. Like so many women in Pre-Raphaelite pictures, she enacts the role of the passive, infinitely desired and yet unattainable victim. It is an irritating stereotype, ripe for revision.

And now, on the eve of the movement's 150th anniversary, Manchester City Art Galleries has produced a timely corrective. No fewer than 20 Pre-Raphaelite women artists are brought together, represented for the most part by images never publicly displayed during the present century.

The show's zealous organisers, Jan Marsh and Pamela Gerrish Nunn, have made some remarkable discoveries. The most unexpected is a painting called *England and Italy* by Jane Benham Hay, an ironmonger's daughter who won considerable success at Royal Academy exhibitions. Like so many of the women on view here, she was soon forgotten. Nobody knows when or where she died. But it was probably in Italy, the country she settled in after espousing the cause of Italian independence.

This is the theme of the newly found canvas, missing ever since it was first displayed at the Academy in 1859. Painted only a year before Garibaldi was installed in Italy as the hero of unification, it shows two boys standing together in the Val d'Arno. One, blond and English, rests a hand on the shoulder of his dark-haired Italian companion. The placid elegance of the

Richard Cork on Manchester's admirable attempt to give Pre-Raphaelite women artists their due

well-dressed English boy is contrasted with the frowning restlessness of his barefoot friend. And the heap of stones and earth in front of them may be intended to reflect Italy's fragmented, perilous state. But it is not a doggedly symbolic picture. Benham Hay handles the sunlit landscape with a realist's precision, and her sympathetic portrayal of the boys deserves to be ranked with Winslow Homer's paintings of children in rural America.

Benham Hay and her equally progressive friends, Anna Mary Howitt and Barbara Leigh Smith, were determined to help each other to attain the independence enjoyed by men. "What schemes of life have we not worked out whilst we have been together!" exclaimed Howitt, describing the three women as the "germ of a beautiful sisterhood in Art, of which we have all dreamed long".

Their task was far from easy. The strength of their feminist convictions was pitted, not only against patronising masculine prejudice in general, but the obstacles thrown up by art

education in particular. Female students were steered towards embroidery and illustration by teachers who assumed that the decorative arts were appropriate for young women destined to marry and look after children.

Even the students resolute enough to insist on using oil and marble found themselves barred from the life class. Without access to the nude model, they had difficulty in mastering figure drawing, then regarded as the indispensable foundation of all the most ambitious works of art. As for travelling, in order to scrutinise the finest examples of European painting and sculpture, it was regarded as a hazardous enterprise best left to men alone.

No wonder the Pre-Raphaelite women sought solidarity in a sisterhood. Mutual support would help to protect them, but even the militant Howitt could not shield herself from the debilitating onslaught of professional male opinion. When her painting of Boadicea was rejected by the Royal Academy and crushingly criti-

cised by the influential John Ruskin, she suffered a mental breakdown. After destroying her work and jettisoning all hope of further esteem, Howitt henceforth devoted herself to spiritualism. Only a sensitive pencil drawing of Elizabeth Siddal, wearing iris flowers in her hair, represents Howitt's lost oeuvre in this survey.

But Leigh Smith, the other "sister", has four exhibits, and her unusually large watercolour panorama of Ventnor on the Isle of Wight is outstanding. She approaches the coastal scene with the same realist hunger that Benham Hay displayed in *England and Italy*. The Ventnor picture, however, carries a far greater freight of detail. Like all the finest Pre-Raphaelite landscapes, it has an almost microscopic intensity, and yet the overall luminosity of the limpid sea and sky is evoked without a trace of pedantic excess.

Leigh Smith was a doughty campaigner for women's rights. She played a major role in the Langham Place Group, which fought for suffrage and brought about the founding of Girton College in Cambridge.

Similar views were advanced by other female Pre-Raphaelites, some of whom were drawn to the movement's interest in an art based on contemporary issues.

Anna Blunden, whose Cornish watercolour of Polpeor Beach near the Lizard has a near-hallucinatory, hairs-breadth clarity, was committed to social reform. Her painting of a seamstress staring from a sweatshop window was inspired by Thomas Hood's polemical poem *The Song of the Shirt*. Cruder than the Polpeor watercolour, its uncertain command of figure painting reflects the fact that Blunden was self-taught as an artist.

But the image of a woman isolated in a room proves the most powerful motif in the exhibition. Marianne Stokes, an Austrian who married a British painter and settled in St Ives, produced an impressive canvas called *St Elizabeth of Hungary Spinning for the Poor*. Unlike Blunden's seamstress, Stokes's saint belongs to the past. The style suggests the influence of Rogier van der Weyden, but the 15th-century precision is matched by a late 19th-century feeling for simplification in a shallow space.

At first glance, the lone figure of Melody (*Musica*) painted by Kate Bunce seems

more sensual and festive. Plucking a lute-like instrument, she gazes out in our direction with bold, direct eyes. A dramatic mane of ebony hair increases the sense of brazen confrontation.

But the scene reflected in the circular mirror behind turns out to be religious. She must be contemplating its significance rather than staring at the viewer. Bunce, based in Birmingham, was a devout Christian. The sophisticated interplay between the ornamental petals on the ruff-maker's dress, and the flowers burgeoning in a vase beyond, promotes a feeling of spiritual exaltation as well. It is a highly controlled performance.

The exhibition is not without its dull and insipid moments. By no means all these newly uncovered women are artists worth cherishing, and some do little more than echo familiar work by Pre-Raphaelite men. But there are enough impressive images on view to justify the dedicated research behind the show. From now on, nobody will be able to ignore these neglected women with such a wholesale disregard for the truth.

Pre-Raphaelite Women Artists at Manchester City Art Galleries (0161 236 5244) until Feb 22

### LONDON GALLERIES

■ CUBBITT has reopened with an ambitious and perhaps more consistent programme. The first exhibition, *We gotta get out of this place*, is meant to function in a variety of ways. A small separate space within the main space presents a quasi-documentary video on the music scene, by Johannes Schweiger and Roland Rust. The perhaps over-elaborate but sharply striking piece by Doug Aitken of a portion of land in Namibia plays across three television monitors.

Scrappy snapshots by Richard Wentworth document little "still lifes" of material left abandoned. In the streets around King's Cross: a hind-sight vision of an abandoned Christmas tree among one of the many photographs tacked lightly to the wall. The huge poster by Luc Tuymans on a billboard outside can be caught or just as easily passed by. The gallery space itself appears deliberately unprepossessing and functional in order to suggest that artistic life can exist as much in literature, magazine and technology as in the anticipation of physical display.

Cubbit, 2-4 Caledonia St, King's Cross, London N1 (0171-278 8226) until Jan 4

■ A HYBRID world of merged scientific imagination is suggested by Simon Grange's strange paintings of airborne birds or animals. The fully represented creatures hover (illusionistically) just above the painting surface in a strange shallow space. The outline is sharp and almost hard, the sickly pinks, blues and plastic greens have been rounded and highlighted to suggest a merging of flesh and feather. The eyes which reflect, very deliberately, those of a teddy bear stare out as the creatures fly forward.

The paintings have a wilful strangeness: in fact they are almost too strange, as if the invention of subject has outplayed any invention with paint. The heightened realist nature of this plastic imagery seems so tightly sealed as to hold still the breath of imagination.

Gawworts, 155 Vauxhall St, The Oval, London SE11 (0171-735 3443) until Jan 4

■ Rineke Dijkstra photographs free-standing figures in a straightforward and sympathetic manner. Her complicity with young people sets up a relationship, in turn, with the viewer. Her video work follows the same principle, this time to a synchronised beat. Dancers in clubs in Holland and England gyrate to music before a white wall. People dance alone, a bare-midriff girl moves in perfect time to the beat.

The individual large colour photographs show people alone, beside the sea, the horizon line coming to just below the torso; vulnerable thin adolescents held in damp and awkward swimming costumes against the sky.

Photographers Gallery, 5 Gt Newport St, London WC2 (0171-831 1772) until Jan 10

SACHA CRADDOCK

Giles Whittell visits Los Angeles's new Getty Centre, which opens today

## Gasp at the view, gulp at the art

At the gleaming new Getty Centre in Los Angeles, which opens today, you can see dozens of important artworks never exhibited before. For instance, there is the *Stammheim Missal* written for a Benedictine monastery in Hildesheim, now with its third owner in 800 years. There is David Hockney's *Pearl Blossom Highway*, composed of 700 small snapshots and treasured until last year by the artist. You can see a \$16 million Poussin bought recently from Sudeley Castle, and most of the collection once housed in the Getty's Malibu villa.

Yet this is all beside the point. To grasp this spectacular museum's significance you have to go there and pause among the gilded Renaissance altarpieces upstairs in the North Pavilion. Then leave the pavilion, heading south, and gasp if you must. In the foreground, 200ft of blind marble rampart plunges toward a landscaped canyon. In the middle distance is Century City. Beyond that are the Hollywood Hills.

Keep going through the glowing Rembrandts of the East Pavilion and you come to a terrace with views, on a good day, of Catalina Island across 50 miles of Pacific Ocean.

Thirteen years and a billion dollars after it was first thought of, the Getty Centre not only provides an exquisite new home for an important

(though patchy) art collection. It also gives the world a new perspective on America's most baffling city.

The first hint of genius is a high-tech tram that takes visitors up a long slope from an underground car park to another vast expanse of marble leading to the museum's foyer. Richard Meier, who designed it all, calls the tram a "decompression zone". Here, a rare piece of compulsory public transport brings blissful relief from the noise and smog, and reminds you that it is worth slowing down for art.

This is just how the future was supposed to be. Kurt Andersen wrote in *The New Yorker*: "Meier's highly classed modernism is like a *Star Trek* episode about Periclean Athens." Indeed, the Getty is a place of Roman stone opposite aluminium-clad research institutes. It has rustic groves next to multimedia information stations.

Great pains have been taken not to let visitors get lost here in the bowels of another Louvre. No gallery is more than one remove from fresh air and a place to sit. Even so, the Getty is its own created world, and nowhere more so than in the Great Hall. Here parquet floors, stucco mouldings and rich fabrics are used to give the museum's unmatched haul of 18th-century decorative art an authentic setting.



The new Getty: superbly sited overlooking Los Angeles

The effect is of walking into a period film set, and Meier hates it. A thoroughgoing Modernist, he refused to install trimmings that clash with his starkly clean design. A French *beaux arts* expert called Thierry Despont was hired to do the job, and the two have kept the art world agog with their protracted battles.

The upper-level galleries are Meier's clearest triumph. To show off the Getty's masterpieces in the natural light in which contemporaries saw them, he has put high, sloping roofs over traditional oblong viewing areas, capping the design with computer-controlled slats under enormous skylights. As the sun moves, the slats follow. Curators last week claimed this pale, diffuse light brings paintings alive as if expensively restored.

John Walsh, the museum's suave Bostonian director,

called the Getty's collection "small, specialised and spotty" when he took it over in 1983. It has since grown, thanks to a staggering \$4.5 billion endowment, but Walsh admits he can never vie with Europe or New York for sheer volume. Most old pieces worth buying have been bought.

Instead he has concentrated on showing visitors a good time. In a city as self-conscious as Los Angeles a 110-acre monument to high culture in full view of the freeway-bound masses was bound to be controversial. Sure enough, it has been criticised as elitist and inaccessible.

The truth is that entrance to this palace is free bar a \$5 parking fee. It's true that it sits above the city, and thank goodness. As the movie mogul David Geffen recently observed, the sprawl below scarcely deserves it.

## Orchestra scores more than lovers

One advantage of reviving elderly productions is that they probably have proper decor attached — there would be no question of Scottish Opera now being able to afford the three handsomely represented sets designed by Peter Rice for Anthony Beech's 17-year-old staging of Puccini's melodrama. By today's standards it looks positively splendid, especially the Castel Sant'Angelo with its machine-gun emplacements, searchlights and corrugated-iron roofing.

Ah yes, this is one of the earlier updates: 1943, with the Allied invasion of Sicily substituting for Napoleon's of Italy, and Catania replacing Marengo. King Victor Emmanuel (authentically short) and Queen Elena (authentically tall) attend the Te Deum, as does Mussolini (authentically bald). Scarpia and the Duke exchanging a significant glance at curtain-fall adds a certain *frisson*, and so does the perfectly timed entry into Sant'Andrea della Valle of the jack-booted Fascist police chief and attendant thugs.

On the whole, though, Beech's direction is sober and discreetly understated, unlike some one could mention, until the final moments that is, when even Tosca's suicidal leap is capped by spectacular pyrotechnics. Since the opera is in part about "little people" tangling with forces beyond their control, this is not inapposite.

There is one slight drawback to the revival. Ian Storey (Cavaradossi) is a serious,

decent singer with ringing top notes and an expressive half-voice, but as yet an inexperienced actor. If you don't believe that he and Tosca are in the midst of a white-hot erotic affair, then the plot doesn't quite work; this pair, you feel, might have held hands in the back row of the cinema once or twice, no more. Elizabeth Byrne can't quite supply the charge on her own, but she has all the notes, mottled tone, and looks good in Rice's period frocks. Matthew Best's rangy, slightly stooped Scarpia has the look of a pasty-faced, thin-tipped spider — just the job — and sings strongly and with point.

What makes this more than a solid, unstarilly-cast revival is Guido Ajmone-Marsan's conducting. There is no question of his just bashing through a well-known score: familiar phrases, instrumental colour, even rests are carefully weighed and delivered by an orchestra relishing their space in the Theatre Royal's newly expanded pit.

It all sounded as fresh as if they were seeing their parts for the first time when rehearsals started, reminding us that, full-on old warhorse of a crowd-puller though *Tosca* may be, it is faultlessly written. A good evening — and the perfect antidote to Christmas.

RODNEY MILNES

### CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

STRAUSS'S *DIE FLEDermaus*  
Reviewed by  
Rodney Milnes

Obviously with so popular a work there are some tempting budget and mid-price bargains among the 11 CDs available. The oldest, Herbert von Karajan's first version dating from 1955 on EMI, is a classic, with Elisabeth Schwarzkopf giving one of her best recorded performances as a laughily flirtatious Rosalinde. Nicolai Gedda in his prime as Eisenstein, such expert stylings as Rita Streich and Erich Kunz in support, and the (then) young Philharmonia playing with infectious zip. But even though it was very well remastered in 1988, this is in mono, which may put it out of court for some.

The 1995 D'Oyly Carte version on Sony, in Alistair Beaton's lively and free English translation, is also something of a special case, but a nice memento for those who enjoyed the show on stage.

The budget-price recording on Naxos may lack "name" singers, but the cast has obviously worked together and there is a real "performance" feel to the set, which is very idiomatically conducted by Johannes Wildner and stylishly played by the Czechoslovak Radio Symphony Orchestra of Bratislava.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Building a Library returns on Dec 27 at 9am on Radio 3 with a review of Debussy's songs



But most people will want a glamorously cast *Fledermaus*, and the three likeliest contenders are on DG conducted by Carlos Kleiber. EMI conducted by (and featuring) Plácido Domingo, and Karajan's second recording on Decca, all in good modern sound. Domingo has a sparkling Rosalinde in Lucia Popp, a good Eisenstein (Peter Seiffert) and Agnes Baltsa, and Bernd Weikl in support, but his reading is on the leisurely side for so lively a piece.

Karajan's cast is led by such stylings as Hilde Gueden and Waldemar Kmentt, sumptuously played by the Vienna Philharmonia, and just as superbly recorded. For me Carlos Kleiber is the best conductor — light-fingered, witty and fleet, with rubato perfectly judged. An excellent cast, though, is marred by a hideously unfunny falsist as Orlofsky, which leads me to play safe and recommend the evenly cast Karajan Mark II (Decca 421 046-2, 2 CD, £30.99).



# LAW

● ENDING EVIL 37  
● LAW REPORT 38

The appointment of a new First Junior Treasury Counsel, Common Law (the "Treasury Devil" or "Treasury Junior") does not normally receive much publicity. The Attorney-General's decision last month to appoint Philip Sales as successor to Stephen Richards (who has been made a High Court judge) attracted press attention because Mr Sales, primarily a commercial lawyer, is a member of the former chambers of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg. The Solicitor-General, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, explained that Mr Sales was simply the best lawyer for the job.

It is one of the most important and difficult jobs in the legal system. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister appointed by what most of us go to the Bar to avoid: being answerable to one client. He is

## Those given the devil of a job to do

briefed and paid (though not generously) for each advice to, or court appearance on behalf of, government departments. In theory, he is the "Attorney-General's Devil": the junior who researches what the Law Officers need to know. In practice, because the Law Officers are too busy to appear in court, the Treasury Junior has the vital task, as an independent outsider with access to senior civil servants and ministers, of assisting the Crown to comply with the law.

The Treasury Devil need not be an experienced administrative lawyer. In his Hamlyn Lectures of 1990, Lord Woolf recalled that on his appointment as Treasury Junior in 1974, such was his "ignorance

of public law" that he needed to ask his predecessor, Gordon Slynn, what textbooks he should read. The appointment of good lawyers, whatever their previous area of expertise, ensures that the Treasury Devil normally has the best times in court.

The importance of the post makes it inconceivable that any government would today follow the example of Sir Robert Finlay who, as Attorney-General in 1905, appointed his son, a junior barrister with four years' experience, to be junior counsel to the Inland Revenue Commissioners. Finlay's decision was much criticised, and his position further undermined when, soon after, he was a passenger in the car

of Sir William Anson, Warden of All Souls, who was stopped and successfully prosecuted for speeding.

The growth in public law litigation and the consequent burdens of the job make it impossible for the modern Treasury Devil to follow the example of Sir Valentine Holmes, appointed to the post in 1935. *The Dictionary of National Biography* records that he performed the task "without any abatement of his private practice" as a libel specialist. Today, the Treasury Junior needs the assistance of a panel of barristers who act for the Crown part-time as and when required.

It is hard work endeavouring to explain to courts, on a

daily basis, the reasoning of government departments. As Sir John Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, stated in his judgment in an Immigration case in 1982, "the impartial observer asks Mr Simon Brown to explain how paragraph 70 of the rules is intended to operate, and Mr Brown says that he will have to take instructions".

Lord Woolf has written on the difficulties representing the Crown when Lord Denning was rewriting the law books and "setting about government departments with an irrepressible enthusiasm". Diplomacy is required. In a 1975 judgment, Lord Denning criticised Crown counsel, Roger Parker, QC, for submitting,

"and I made a note of it at the time", that if the court intervened, "it would not be long before the powers of the court would be called in question". Lord Denning commented that he was prepared to accept that this was "not said seriously, but only a piece of advocate's licence".

Early in the 19th century, Charles Abbott was a Treasury Devil described by Campbell in his *Lives of the Chief Justices* as having "the most marvellous inaptitude for the functions of an advocate". He almost always lost his cases, partly because of "his power of discrimination and soundness of understanding", which enabled him to appreciate the merits of the case on both



COUNSEL  
DAVID  
PANICK QC

sides, and "afterwards fitted him so well for being a judge". The example of Abbott serves to remind the legal profession of what has been

well understood and acted upon by recent holders of the office. All advocates have to reconcile their duties to their client with their duties to the court, and with their conscience. The Treasury Junior has a specific responsibility, as important in the age of the contingency fee as ever, to remind the Government that there are steps it cannot take, however large its parliamentary majority, and that there are occasions when it should accept legal defeat.

For the past six years, Stephen Richards has maintained the values and the independence of his office while serving a Conservative government which was not always eager to listen to legal advice. All members of the Bar will wish Mr Sales well as his successor.

● The author is a practising barrister and fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Experts have been debating juries' ability to understand fraud cases and whether to look at how they reach verdicts. Frances Gibb reports

## Should we take a peek inside the jurors' room?

Juries are on trial. Ministers want to look again at whether juries should be scrapped for complex fraud cases. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, defends the jury system. But there is a case, he says, for re-examining trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

The alternative, proposed by Lord Roskill in his committee's report on fraud in 1986, suggested that such cases would be better tried by a judge, perhaps sitting with two specialist assessors. The proposal did not find favour, but the acquittal of the Maxwell brothers has reopened the debate.

Last week 250 judges, lawyers, police and government officials met to discuss the issue at a seminar chaired by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and organised by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences with sponsorship from the Criminal Bar and Administrative Law Bar Associations, and the Law Society.

Lord Bingham has expressed his own views on the subject. He told a press conference last year that the jury "is

and always has been regarded as one of the great safety valves that prevents the State from behaving in an oppressive way". But he added that he had favoured Lord Roskill's proposal for fraud trials, although he believed that the public was still unlikely to support it. Lord Bingham also agreed with lifting the lid a little on how juries do their work, through "serious, objective and anonymous research".

The question of whether there should be jury research — banned under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981 — is linked to that of whether to keep juries for complex fraud. Until it is known how they operate, and whether they find such trials difficult, it is argued that no case can be made for their abolition. The fears of many were voiced by David Calvert-Smith, QC, who said research would "just be ammunition for those who want to get rid of juries".

Clear battle lines have al-

ready been drawn. Roy Amiot, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, made a passionate defence in his paper for juries to remain. Trials by judge, or with assessors, might be more efficient, but would not be cheaper or quicker. They would always be pressed "by insistence or flattery" into thinking they could cope with all the issues.

The change, he added, would be a "fundamental mistake". Complexity was no justification for removing juries from certain cases. "All complex issues can be made simple... That is the task of the judge and advocate."

There was also a danger that under trial by judge, with or without assessors, the public might not have confidence in the outcome. If an influential or political person was on trial, the panel might acquit, and rightly so. "But is it ever going to be accepted by the public at large? I cannot think of a more devastating way of undermin-

ing the appearance of justice."

Other jury supporters argued that research would kill trial. Sir John Smith, Nottingham University's Emeritus Professor of Law, believed that secrecy was essential to preserving the jury as an institution. Perhaps it was a case where ignorance was bliss. He said: "I recognise that it is highly desirable that we should know whether these assumptions [about jury behaviour] are well founded or not. But I fear that there is a price to be paid, namely the revelation that many cases are decided in consequence of material irregularities in the jury room, with consequent undermining of public confidence in jury trial."

"If we are to keep such trials, and if there is an overwhelming sentiment in favour of doing so, it is perhaps better not to know."

But there was also a strong view, Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, the organiser, says, that jury research could be done without destroying the institution of the jury itself. Michael Zander, QC, Professor of Law at the London School of Economics, and a fervent believer



Jurors hear a lawyer present his client's case in a scene from *Verdict*, a BBC programme about the jury system

in juries, says that while such research would have to be conducted with extreme care, it could be done.

One approach would be to monitor the deliberations on audio-recording, supplemented by interviews or questionnaires. Professor Zander said that such research, including

an inquiry into the impact of media publicity on juries, is going on in New Zealand.

The findings of jury research would not vindicate every verdict. There would certainly be cases where the jury had for some reason "got it wrong", in the sense that the verdict ran against the weight

of the evidence; or they decided "out of prejudice or stupidity." But the jury system could withstand that. In 1981, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, later Lord Chancellor, said: "The jury system, great institution that it is, surely can stand up to properly conducted research."

Lord Hailsham of St

Marylebone, another Lord Chancellor, took the same view.

Jury research would need legislation. But it might be an acceptable first step before dismantling juries for complex fraud cases when the evidence has not fully been heard.

## Helping Lord Irvine

GARRY HART is making a large financial sacrifice to help out his old friend Lord Irvine of Lairg as a special adviser in the Lord Chancellor's Department on a salary of £73,000.

But when he quits his post as a senior partner with Herbert Smith, his family will not be plunged into penury — his second wife, Valerie Davies, is a big earner in her role as head of Norton Rose's insolvency litigation department.

**We want our fees**

COMPETITION between the Bar and solicitors is heating up. Angry young barristers are accusing solicitors of "cynically exploiting" their junior status by deliberately holding back payments for advocacy work in magistrates' courts.

The Bar Council's young barristers' committee has told the Bar Council that fees are being paid slowly, if at all, by "a number of firms".

What's more, the committee has complained that some chambers are reluctant to pursue fees owed to their younger tenants for fear that the guilty firms will retaliate by ceasing to give their better work to the more senior tenants in the chambers.

The Bar Council has posted a warning in its newsletter

Bar News reminding heads of chambers that deliberately not collecting fees or not chasing them vigorously enough are disciplinary offences.

**Altogether, aaah**

A NEW trend among law firms this year: they are abandoning Christmas cards. Nicholas Graham & Jones have decided to put the money instead into Crisis at Christmas, and has organised a programme of activities to help the charity for the homeless, including a rota of helpers to work on the conversion of a warehouse into a

Christmas shelter. Another firm, Berwin Leighton is donating its Christmas card account to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, where it will be spent on special trolleys to move children.

And judges last week mixed with court staff and civil servants for a special concert organised by Allen & Overy at the Royal Courts of Justice to raise money for the Citizens Advice Bureau based in the building. About £500 was collected, and pledges have yet to come in.

Meanwhile, at the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, staff struggling with backlogs and rising workloads have been offered gift vouchers to close the files on as many complaints as possible in time for Christmas.

● Jonathan Evans, the former DTI Corporate Affairs Minister, has been appointed director of insurance by the London office of Eversheds. Before his time in government, he was managing partner in the law firm Leo Abse & Cohen.

**Profitable gap**

LONDON firms often open regional offices. But Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, a West Sussex law firm, is bucking the trend and opening a branch of Thesis, its investment advice arm, in London.

Anthony Wands, Thesis's managing director and chief investment officer, sees a gap in the market advising private investors.

**Netting business**

A LAWYER is setting up his own Internet law practice.

Richard Kemp, a specialist in information technology and intellectual property law, has set up Kemp & Co to "capitalise on the huge growth in demand for tailored advice on computer-related, information and communications law".

**Rights winners**

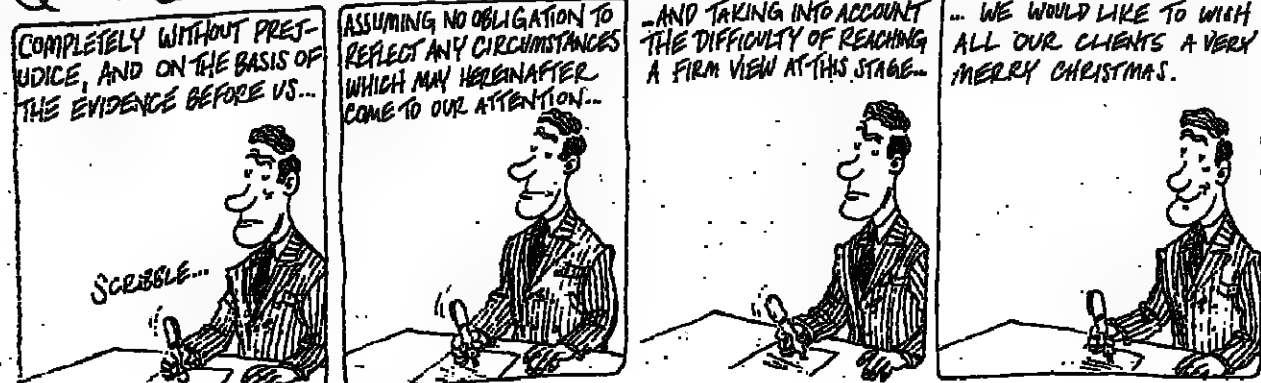
LORD LESTER of Herne Hill, QC, was last week announced Human Rights Lawyer of 1997. The award, organised by Liberty in association with the Law Society Gazette, was made to Lord Lester for his role in pressing for human rights legislation — an ambition realised this year with the Human Rights Bill.

A second honour, the Human Rights Award, went to Stonewall, the gay and lesbian pressure group, for advances in rights for homosexuals.



Lester: human rights award

## QUEEN'S COUNSEL



## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Christmas is a natural 'pause' to contemplate the direction your career will take in the New Year. Is partnership really what you aspire to? Are there more interesting and fulfilling roles in-house? Should you look at the options available to you? More often than not candidates are surprised by the variety of opportunities which exist in banking/finance. If you would welcome the chance to talk to us on a fact finding basis we will be delighted to give you constructive career advice.

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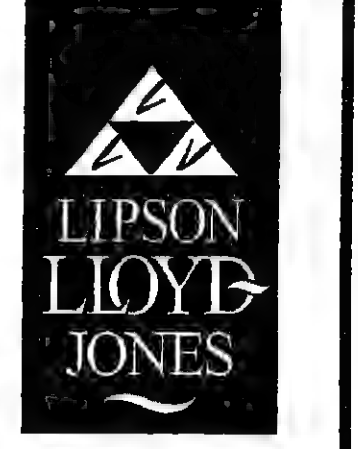
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# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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To £60,000  
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## FEBRUARY/MARCH 98 QUALIFIERS

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## Let's Talk Turkey

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City's international firm seeks senior lawyer to head its corporate law department in London following its expansion into Europe. The role is essential for the firm's success.

### Building

City's leading firm with superb track record seeks senior lawyer to head its corporate law department in London following its expansion into Europe. The role is essential for the firm's success.

### Asset Protection/PPP

City's leading firm with superb track record seeks senior lawyer to head its corporate law department in London following its expansion into Europe. The role is essential for the firm's success.

### IP/IT

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### Trade Marks

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Education in prisons could be used to lessen a sentence if a prisoner were to try to gain an educational qualification

## Can we eliminate evil?

Education should serve a rehabilitative purpose for the inmates of prisons, says Joel Parkes

I work in police stations and represent people who have been arrested. Mostly those arrests lead to interviews on tape-recorders, and the arrested person has a right to have a solicitor or a legal representative present to advise him or her on the evidence, and what the best course of action is when it comes to answering questions.

Most criminals are simple and non-threatening when it comes to a discussion with the only friendly face they have seen in custody. But I do encounter evil, and solicitors or legal representatives who tell you that they have not are either not getting much work or are not perceptive.

Many people see prison as the last stop for the criminal on the train of justice. The criminal has been arrested, represented in court, had a chance to put his or her side of the story to a judge and jury, been found guilty and will now face the punishment that society has deemed necessary.

Criminologists and legal academics all agree that sentencing has more than one purpose. It should reflect society's revulsion of the crime committed and it should help to protect society from a person who is dangerous. The act of putting people in prison should also be guided by a rehabilitative purpose. To turn someone out on the street after years of harsh social conditioning and unhealthy peer pressure without adequate rehabilitation cannot be a sensible way in which to address the social root of crime.

But that is what the British penal system does. The nature of the educational services offered in the prison system today can only be described as shambling. Of the estimated prison population of 56,000 in the UK, there are only some 250 inmates studying for a

degree qualification. They are forced to take their degrees via the Open University. This is because the prison system of education is set up so that there is no standardisation of services or educational materials from one prison to the next, and the Open University is the best option for the inmate who gets moved between prisons during a custodial sentence.

There are educational services at prisons that provide basic skills guided by the national core curriculum, but their implementation is left to the prison governors. How can that possibly accommodate the inmate who, perhaps for the first time in his life, is on the road to self-improvement through study, only to have his course cut short when he is transferred to a prison where the programme does not exist?

If we are so concerned with preventing and eliminating crime, why have we not gone to the root of the problem? Why have there been no steps taken to re-educate prisoners? Is the concept of rehabilitation looked on as a liberalist anathema? Can anyone seriously believe that prisons, referred to as the "University of Crime" by many police officers, are places that teach proper social values?

But what of the prisoner who does not want to accept education in prison, even if offered? One possible solution is offering the prisoner the option of studying for an educational qualification as a condition for a lesser sentence. The educational qualifications could be as varied as the prisoners, from lessons in basic literacy

and numeracy skills to university-level degree qualifications.

Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, is receptive to this idea. "I am strongly in favour of providing as much education as is practicable in prisons," he says. "I would support prisoners being able to earn remission by educational achievements."

For this to work, there must be an acceptance of the validity of social intervention. Social intervention is a broad concept, but it is a key component of the ever-developing world of criminological theory.

We can either lock prisoners up and forget about them or we can make the real effort to change them when we have them in custody. Almost all prisoners eventually get back on the streets. Is it really such a hard decision? If they were given a chance to be educated I think that they would be more likely to reoffend. Such a move seems to make perfect sense.

## Solicitors go for the hard sell

Frances Gibb attends a seminar explaining how lawyers can best compete for work

Solicitors are now salesmen. They have to be, to survive. But how, and where, should they sell their wares? Last week the American Chamber of Commerce held a top-level seminar for 80 lawyers from City and American law firms to debate how they can best compete for work. Joe Macrae, of ZMB, the legal recruitment consultants who sponsored the event, said: "The market is now fiercely competitive."

American law firms are thrusting into the City of London, a crucial gateway to Europe. And City law firms are seeking to expand, probably through mergers, in the States.

Law firms still lag behind accountants in how they market themselves. But they have changed their approach dramatically from ten years ago. Dr Irwin Steiner, of Irwin Steiner Associates, said that solicitors had evolved from the idea that they were professionals "who did not sell and did not carry a business card through to what we have a brochure, and from there to taking part in beauty contests" (to pitch for work).

But marketing was still bigger business in America, where law firms spent some 3 per cent of gross fees on it compared with 1.5 per cent among City law firms.

Buyers of legal services, though, hold the key; and for the corporate/commercial law firms, the buyers — or clients — are other lawyers, in-house lawyers in large companies. Deanna Baines, head of business and legal affairs at BSKyB (in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake), told the conference that in-house lawyers increasingly handled more business themselves. So when they went outside, they wanted lawyers for expertise

such as "litigation, specialist competition law advice". BSKyB did not go particularly to "media" firms, she said; rather it sought the expertise of an individual. Her checklist of what to look for in a firm or lawyer were: accessibility ("I speak to Charles Plant/Herbert Smith every week); ability to do the job quickly; a "can-do" attitude — "we want to know how to do the deal, not whether we should do it"; ability to present the legal

Clifford Chance, confirmed that the boot was on the client's foot. "We must look at things from the client's perspective and not our own. And we must also look at the way a product is delivered. Clients say they want commercial, proactive, hands-on advice." They did not want a 20-page treatise which left them asking "...and?"

Above all, the approach had to be tailored to the client, he said. Some wanted to be involved; others left the lawyers to get on with it. "We must provide a package for the client suitable for the way they operate and look more intelligently at how we price our services." The key, he added, was understanding the client's own business. Lawyers should visit their clients — "How you can form a relationship with people you only ever see in your office surprises me."

It is all a far cry from the high street law firm. Yet one common thread emerged: the need to put the client first or, in the jargon, "client care". More and more firms are doing "client audits".

Julia Chain, managing partner of Garretts, the legal arm of Arthur Andersen, said the firm had found it useful to send someone (not the partner doing the work) out to the client to make sure they were satisfied. Likewise, John Shenfield, chairman of Morgan Lewis and Bockius, a 900-lawyer American firm rapidly expanding worldwide, said feedback was regularly sought from clients.

His firm had led the quiet life for about 25 years. They had not been as aggressive and creative as they could have been. But the market was shifting. Clients in London were more ready to make changes. "London is at the very epicentre. The opportunities are there if you are willing to grasp them."

From the law firms' perspective, Anthony Williams, managing partner-elect of

**'I would rather pay double and have the job well done'**

advice to in-house management convincingly; and finally the "guts to stand up to the client" — "We don't want someone who says — 'a hostile takeover bid for the BBC? What a good idea!'"

Fees, which are increasingly trimmed to meet client demands, were not a deterrent if the ability was there, she added. "I'd rather pay double and have the job well done, than half and have to finish it myself."

Above all, it was "brainpower" they sought, with the ability to think strategically in new areas.

On the downside, lawyers scored no marks for laziness, blurring, refusing to admit previous advice was wrong, charging for "phantom paralegals" or bringing along trainees who took notes which did not resemble what happened at the meeting.

From the law firms' perspective, Anthony Williams, managing partner-elect of

### CHAMBERS

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#### BANKING & FINANCE

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Chambers Banking & Finance recruit lawyers into banks and other financial institutions. For further information or for career advice, please ring Deborah Kirkman or Stuart Morton on 0171 606 8844. Confidentiality is assured.

##### Trade Finance £80,000

This leading house has a truly European ethos, but is active on a global scale and has enjoyed a period of significant expansion.

The bank is one of the world's most significant providers of trade finance and offers exporters the ability to extend credit for exports to a range of exotic markets. A senior lawyer (4-7 years' ppe) with trade finance and forfaiting experience is now required to support this highly successful area managing a small team. The role will combine the stimulation working in a front office environment with the back-up of a first-rate legal department.

##### Emerging Markets £75,000

Our client is a multi-faceted European investment bank with an excellent reputation for raising finance in selected markets and cross-border expertise.

It seeks a lawyer (3 years' + ppe) to join a specialised team within the legal department providing day-to-day transactional support and advice to the debt capital markets desks. The bank's emerging markets business is also transacted out of London and this will form a significant part of the workload, including complex structured products. The role entails all aspects of a proposed trade/structure and will offer the opportunity for some travel.

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# Loss not in parties' contemplation Particulars must be in indictment

## Total Transport Corporation v Arcadia Petroleum Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Auld and Sir John Balcombe  
[Judgment November 18]

A clause in a charterparty providing for "loss suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions" to charterers' voyage instructions, to be the responsibility of the shipowner did not entitle the charterers to recover loss which was not in the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the charterers, Arcadia Petroleum Ltd, against the decision of Mr Justice Rix (1996) 2 Lloyd's Rep 408 to set aside an arbitration award on an Asbatankvoy form of \$681,934.05 interest at 5.5 per cent awarded to Total Transport Corporation, the disponent owners of the ship, Eurus.

Mr Simon Rainey for the charterers, Mr Richard Jacobs for the shipowners.

**LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON** said that clause 36 was the critical clause, and provided: "Owners shall be responsible for any time, costs, delays or losses suffered by charterers due to failure to comply fully with charterers' voyage instructions." There then followed a definition of the clause continued: "Provided such instructions are in accordance with the charterparty and custom of the trade specified in voyage orders".

The charterers' case was that the owners, in breach of contract, did not comply with the instructions which the charterers gave. Their loss was claimed either as damages or as money payable under a contractual indemnity.

The claim for damages failed but the one for indemnity succeeded. The claim for damages was not renewed either before Mr Justice Rix or the Court of Appeal.

On January 23, 1992 the charterers nominated the Eurus to lift a cargo under a supply contract with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation for loading between January 29 and 31 with an estimated time of arrival of January 31 at the port of Forcados.

On January 23 the Nigerian Corporation announced their prices for February which were lower than the January prices and so it was in the interest of the charterers that the vessel should not complete loading before February 1.

In the afternoon of January 31, a message reached the owners from the charterers asking the owners to slow down the loading in order to ensure that the vessel received a February 1 bill of lading. There was no suggestion at that stage that the critical time was anything other than 0001hr on February 1.

The master then advised that he expected to complete loading at

0130hr on that day and he did. Neither he nor the owners had any reason to suppose that it was necessary to prolong the loading, if he could, until later that morning.

There was, however, a rule of the Department of Petroleum Resources in Lagos that if loading was completed prior to 0100hr on the first day of a new month, the bill of lading was to be dated the last day of the old month.

The rule had been in force for some eighteen or twenty years and was designed to enable the department to carry out an audit stock at the end of each month without doing so outside working hours. The supply contract between the charterers and the Nigerian Corporation was governed by Nigerian law. The charterparty, however, was governed by English law.

The arbitrators found that, if the vessel had presented itself for loading at 1100hr on January 31, then loading would have extended beyond 0600hr on February 1.

It would have then followed that the charterers would have had to pay the lower, February price. In the event, they were obliged to pay the January price which cost them the additional sum of \$681,934.05. Neither the charterers nor the owners knew about the Sam rule.

The arbitrators held that the existence of the Sam rule was not an effective or intervening cause of the charterers' loss and that the cause of the loss was the master's

failure to comply with the charterers' instructions.

The case for the charterers was that clause 36 in its role as an indemnity clause required proof that the loss was caused by failure to obey the charterers' orders, but not that the loss should be within the reasonable contemplation of the parties.

The judge treated that part of the case as raising two questions: 1 Was clause 36 an indemnity provision? 2 If it was an indemnity provision, was the clause confined to reasonably foreseeable loss?

His Lordship preferred to treat the problem as one question of interpretation of the contract: did the clause provide that the charterers could recover even if the loss suffered was not within the reasonable contemplation of the parties?

In his Lordship's judgment, it was not the intention of the parties to provide, by clause 36, that a particular kind of breach of contract by the owners should attract liability even for unforeseeable consequences, while in the case of all other breaches of contract the ordinary rule of remoteness would apply.

His Lordship would therefore uphold the decision of Mr Justice Rix.

**LORD JUSTICE AULD** agreed and Sir John Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Holman Fenwick & Wilton.

## Regina v Roberts and Others

Before Lord Justice Phillips, Mr Justice Jowitt and Sir Patrick Russell  
[Judgment November 20]

It was important to set out proper particulars of the offence or offences charged in the indictment itself.

In a case of conspiracy to commit criminal damage contrary to section 1(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1977, if the prosecution case was that the conspiracy embraced an aggravated form of criminal damage, it was not sufficient for the indictment to charge criminal damage simpliciter and for the prosecution to rely on the particularisation contained in an opening note drafted in the defence before the trial began.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when allowing appeals by Martin Stanley Roberts, Jonathan Taylor and Kevin Chapman and quashing their convictions, on March 21, 1997 at Lewes Crown Court (Judge Rix and Brown and a jury) of conspiracy to commit criminal damage contrary to section 1(1) of the 1977 Act, on which Roberts was sentenced to six, Taylor to four and Chapman to two years imprisonment.

Mr John Aspinall, QC and Mr C. F. E. De Havas for Roberts; Mr Jeremy Gold, who did not appear at trial, for Taylor; Mr Martin Hurst for Chapman, all counsel assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals; Mr Richard Cherrill and Mr Adrian Chaplin for the Crown.

**LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS**, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that in late 1994 Shoreham was chosen as a port for the export of live veal calves. That trade was known to many who were concerned for animal welfare.

Roberts founded an organisation called "Campaign against live freight" known as CALF. The other appellants were committee members of that organisation.

The prosecution case was that within CALF there were some, including the appellants, who conspired to carry out a campaign of criminal damage against those involved in the export of live freight. Instances of criminal damage that had occurred were relied upon by the Crown as being the product of that conspiracy.

The appellants had attacked the form of the indictment in a number of ways, including submitting that the indictment alleged an offence of conspiracy to cause criminal damage simpliciter, not damage in one of the aggravated forms and that most of the prosecution case had been devoted to establishing a case of arson in circumstances involving at least recklessness as to endangering human life: such

evidence was irrelevant to the offence charged and highly prejudicial.

It was apparent that the judge had sentenced the appellants on the basis that they had conspired to commit criminal damage, aggravated both because it took the form of arson and because it involved recklessness as to whether it would endanger life.

Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 created a number of offences. They were criminal damage simpliciter, criminal damage with intent to endanger life or recklessness in that regard, arson and arson with intent to endanger life or recklessness in that regard.

The case that the Crown had advanced, and that the judge had permitted the Crown to advance was that the appellants had agreed that a course of conduct should be pursued that embraced all of the above offences, except criminal damage other than arson that involved risk to life.

If a single count charged a conspiracy in relation to the commission of more than one offence, each offence probably constituted an essential element of the conspiracy so that, unless the Crown proved that the conspiracy extended to all the offences alleged, the charge would not be made out.

It was quite plain that, as the maximum sentence was governed by that which attached to the offence that carried the longest term of imprisonment, the jury

had to be satisfied that the conspiracy embraced at least that offence.

It was argued for the prosecution that the indictment should be read subject to the particularisation of the Crown's case provided in its opening note, which was circulated to defence counsel before the trial began.

Had the trial proceeded on the basis that the jury could only convict if they were satisfied that the conspiracy embraced the aggravated versions of the offence to which the opening note referred, it might have followed that deficiencies in the indictment itself were mere technicalities, which should not invalidate the verdicts.

That, however, was far from the case and their Lordships would in any event dilute any trend that diluted the importance of setting out proper particulars of the offence or offences charged in the indictment itself.

The prosecution allegation that the conspiracy had embraced an aggravated form of criminal damage provided the focus of the trial. The approach of the judge was that the indictment required the jury to return a guilty verdict provided that they were satisfied that the conspiracy embraced any form of criminal damage.

Once that was proved, it was for him to decide whether and in what respect a conspiracy to perform an aggravated form of the offence had been made out and to sentence on the basis of that finding.

Accordingly the jury were never

directed to apply their minds to the question of whether the conspiracy extended to arson or embraced a course of conduct that intended to endanger life or was reckless in that regard. The judge had arrogated to himself decisions that were of the most significance in the case.

In some cases it was better that the judge be left to assess the degree of involvement of the various participants in a trial than that there should be a risk of confusing the jury by a profusion of counts designed to achieve that end.

However, such an approach could not be appropriate in a conspiracy that involved different offences subject to different maximum penalties.

For those reasons the procedure adopted was fatally flawed. It would not be appropriate to uphold the verdicts on the basis that they related to a conspiracy to commit criminal damage simpliciter and to attempt to adjust the sentences wrongly imposed on the basis of guilt of the aggravated offences.

The length of trial and the issues explored at it were manifestly inappropriate for a trial on a charge of conspiracy to commit criminal damage simpliciter, whether or not it was arguable that evidence in relation to the aggravated offences could be relevant to such a charge. The convictions would be quashed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Sussex.

## Court's jurisdiction to extend time

### Finnegan v Parkside Health Authority

Before Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Mantell  
[Judgment November 20]

Absence of good reason for delay was not sufficient reason for the court to refuse to exercise its discretion to extend time for appeal under Order 3, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Even where no good reason for delay was forthcoming, prejudice could be a relevant consideration.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Linda Finnegan, from the dismissal by Judge Taylor, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on October 14, 1996, of her application for leave to appeal out of time against the striking out for want of prosecution of her action for negligence against Parkside Health Authority.

Mr Richard Mawney, QC and Mr Mark Twomey for Mrs Finnegan; Miss Fiona Neale for the health authority.

**LORD JUSTICE HIRST** said Mrs Finnegan's claim arose from an operation at the defendants' hospital in February 1989. The writ had been issued on February 26,

1992, two days before the expiry of the limitation period. After some preliminary steps, the case had gone to sleep until February 16, 1996, when her solicitors had served a notice of intention to proceed.

On July 12, 1996, the master had struck out the case on the defendants' application and the plaintiff had served notice of appeal 62 days later on September 12, 1996, 57 days late. Her application for leave to appeal out of time had been dismissed by Judge Taylor.

Her solicitors had given rather lame excuses for delays in August and September, but had given no explanation why the notice of appeal had not been served within the five-day limit or for anything that had gone wrong before the end of July.

The judge had considered three Court of Appeal authorities: *Costello v Somers County Council* (1993) 1 All ER 822; *Revel v Prentice Hall* (1994) 1 WLR 157; and *Savill v Southend Health Authority* (1995) 1 WLR 1254.

He had concluded that while in *Costello* stress was laid on the importance of prejudice, he felt bound to follow the somewhat

different approach in *Revel* and *Savill* and that in the absence of any explanation of the delay during the crucial period, there was no material before the court on which it could exercise its discretion in the plaintiff's favour, so that any question of prejudice, even if minimal or non-existent, was immaterial.

The court had to decide whether there was a conflict between the two lines of authority. His Lordship reviewed the authorities and referred to *Morgage Corporation v Sandos* (The Times December 27, 1996), decided six weeks after the instant case, in which the Court of Appeal had expressly rejected the argument that the absence of good reason was always and in itself sufficient to justify the court in refusing to exercise its discretion, and held that the true position was that once a party was in default it was for him to satisfy the court that discretion should not be exercised in his favour, for which purpose he could rely on any relevant circumstances.

In his Lordship's judgment, the starting point was Order 3, rule 5 which explicitly conferred the widest

measure of discretion in applications for extension of time. *Costello* was fully in line with that philosophy and had explicitly disapproved of a rigid mechanistic approach, rejecting the contention that the application for extension should be heard first, and that dismissal was inevitable if the applicant failed to show good reason for the procedural default.

Any doubt about the strength and breadth of the guidance given in *Costello* had been laid to rest by *Morgage Corporation v Sandos*. It was impossible to reconcile *Savill* with those two cases. The judge had been in error in entirely disregarding prejudice.

However, each application had to be judged on its facts and where as in the instant case there was considerable delay with no explanation of the critical period, the court would apply guidelines laid down in *Morgage Corporation v Sandos*, the first of which stressed that the rules were to be observed. The case would be remitted to the Queen's Bench Division for reconsideration.

**LORD JUSTICE MANTELL** agreed. Solicitors: Zelin & Zelin, Beechcroft Stanley.

## Revelations to newspapers do not constitute molestation

### C v C (Non-molestation order: Jurisdiction)

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President  
[Judgment November 11]

Although there was no legal definition of "molestation" for the purposes of the Family Law Act 1996 there had to be some conduct which clearly harassed and affected the applicant to such a degree that the intervention of the court was justified.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so held when dismissing the husband's application for a non-molestation order under section 42(1)(a) of the Family Law Act 1996 by which he sought to prevent his former wife from giving further information to newspaper reporters with revelations which resulted in the publication of the offending articles justified the making of a non-molestation order.

His Lordship said that, although there was no legal definition of molestation, the word implied some quite deliberate conduct

band: Mr John Elvidge for the respondent.

**THE PRESIDENT** said that the parties had been married but had obtained a divorce in September 1997.

In October two articles detailing the former wife's complaints about her husband appeared in the press and the husband attempted to restrain the wife from providing further information to the newspapers by applying for a non-molestation order under section 42 of the 1996 Act.

Although it was accepted that there had been no direct threat or molestation in the physical sense, nor any indirect interference by telephone or letter, he contended that her conduct in supplying newspaper reporters with revelations which resulted in the publication of the offending articles justified the making of a non-molestation order.

His Lordship said that, although there was no legal definition of molestation, the word implied some quite deliberate conduct

which was aimed at a high degree of harassment of the other party sufficient to call for the intervention of the court.

Furthermore, it was significant that section 42 was to be found in Part IV of the 1996 Act which was concerned with the general topic of domestic violence and that section 42(5) required the court to have regard to all the circumstances including the need to secure the health, safety and wellbeing of the applicant in deciding whether to exercise its powers.

Here the conduct complained of concerned alleged revelations by the former wife of what she regarded as her former husband's misbehaviour.

This seemed to be more a misconceived endeavour to seek to impose what might be called a gagging order.

It came nowhere near molestation as envisaged by section 42 of the 1996 Act. Solicitors: Mills & Reeve, Norwich; Bennett Taylor Tyrrell.

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13101	S Gifford	Wolverhampton	2.00

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
202001	L Ulton	Arisaun	3.00
202002	N Whiteburn	Arisaun	3.00
202003	E Pett	Arisaun	3.00
202004	S Sturman	Aston Villa	2.50
202005	A Whittle	Aston Villa	2.50
202006	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50
202007	F Hatton	Aston Villa	2.50
202008	J Edwards	Barnsley	0.50
202009	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50
202010	D Ramey	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202011	J Henna	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202012	G Palmer	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202013	P Ward	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202014	R Brown	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202015	M Whitlow	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202016	R Elliott	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202017	J Phillips	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202018	T Morgan	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202019	T McNulty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
202020	J McKeown	Celtic	3.50
202021	G La Saux	Celtic	3.50
202022	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.00
202023	G Balewsky	Chelsea	2.00
202024	S Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
202025	D Burrows	Coveントリー City	1.00
202026	M Hall	Coveントリー City	1.00
202027	J Alenxas	Coveントリー City	1.00
202028	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50
202029	M Entwistle	Crystal Palace	1.50
202030	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50
202031	T Jones	Derby County	1.50
202032	C Powell	Derby County	1.50
202033	T Hogg	Derby County	1.50
202034	G Rowell	Derby County	1.50
202035	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50
202036	E Barrett	Everton	2.50
202037	T Phelan	Everton	1.50
202038	T Ward	Everton	1.50
202039	G Locke	Hearts	1.50
202040	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	3.00
202041	R Brown	Leeds United	2.50
202042	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50
202043	S Guppy	Luton Town	2.50
202044	S Skelton	Liverpool	3.00
202045	J McAlear	Liverpool	3.00
202046	R Brown	Liverpool	3.00
202047	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
202048	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50
202049	S Wright	Manchester United	3.50
202050	T Jones	Manchester United	3.50
202051	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00
202052	J Newcastle	Newcastle United	2.00
202053	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00
202054	A Cleland	Sheffed	2.00
202055	J Dwyer	Sheffed	2.00
202056	P Blandau	Sheffed Wednesday	3.00
202057	I Holen	Sheffed Wednesday	2.00
202058	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50
202059	F Bennell	Southampton	0.75
202060	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75
202061	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202062	J Edmondson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202063	S Brown	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
202064	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.50
202065	A Ince	West Ham United	3.00
202066	T Brown	West Ham United	3.00

Code	Name	Team	Price (\$)
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00
30203	M Kewell	Arsenal	3.00
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00
30204	B Bouie	Arsenal	3.00
30201	T Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00
30202	L Elia	Aston Villa	3.00
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnley	1.00
30402	A Moses	Barnley	0.50
30403	C Appleby	Barnley	0.50
30404	T Hendy	Barnley	0.50
30501	S Hinchett	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30502	B Davies	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30601	O Teggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30602	G Bergeson	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30603	C Wainwright	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30604	M Fish	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30701	R Arment	Bolton Wanderers	1.50
30702	M McCrory	Colts	3.00
30703	A Stubbs	Colts	3.00
30704	R Phipps	Colts	3.00
30801	F Lofthouse	Crewe	3.00
30802	M Duggan	Crewe	3.00
30903	S Clarke	Crewe	2.50
30904	B Lambourne	Crewe	2.50
30901	J Doherty	Coverly City	1.50
30902	R Shaw	Coverly City	1.50
30903	C Williams	Coverly City	1.50
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	3.00

31301	S Shields	Dunstable United	2.00
31302	S Shreeley	Durhamshire	2.00
31303	S Sibley	Everton	2.50
31304	S Sibley	Everton	2.00
31342	O Watson	CT Heron	1.50
31404	A Titterton	Hearts	2.00
31501	D Whit	Hearts	2.00
31502	G Hughes	Hearts	2.00
31503	G Whitwell	Leeds United	2.00
31802	G Hall	Leeds United	2.00
31901	Lester	Leeds United	2.00
31904	L Rawcliffe	Leeds United	2.00
31905	M Elliott	Leeds City	3.50
31932	M Keaney	Leeds City	3.00
32003	S Walsh	Leeds City	3.00
31994	S Poley	Leeds City	2.00
32301	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00
32302	D Medino	Liverpool	3.00
32303	D Morrow	Liverpool	3.00
32304	H Berg	Manchester United	3.00
32305	C Brown	Manchester United	3.00
32306	G Palfister	Manchester United	3.50
32307	C Beart	Manchester United	3.00
32308	D Pascoe	Newcastle United	3.00
32309	S Hawley	Newcastle United	3.00
32310	C Morton	Newcastle United	3.00
32311	S Powell	Rangers	3.50
32402	S Blundell	Rangers	3.00
32403	L Lumsden	Rangers	3.00
32404	R Daugh	Rangers	4.00
32501	N Miller	Sheff Wed	2.00
32502	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32503	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32504	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32505	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32506	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32507	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32508	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32509	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32510	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32511	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32512	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32513	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32514	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32515	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32516	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32517	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32518	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32519	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32520	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32521	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32522	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32523	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32524	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32525	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32526	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32527	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32528	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32529	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32530	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32531	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32532	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32533	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32534	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32535	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32536	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32537	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32538	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32539	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32540	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32541	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32542	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32543	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32544	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32545	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32546	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32547	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32548	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32549	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32550	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32551	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32552	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32553	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32554	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32555	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32556	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32557	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32558	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32559	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32560	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32561	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32562	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32563	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32564	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32565	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32566	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32567	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32568	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32569	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32570	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32571	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32572	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32573	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32574	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32575	J Nye	Sheff Wed	2.00
32576	J Nye	Sheff Wed	

Code	Name	Team	Price £m
40101	E Jess	Abertillery	2.00
40102	P Gennard	Abertillery	2.00
40201	M Overman	Afranal	5.50
40202	P White	Afranal	3.50
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.50
40204	C Russell	Arsenal	2.50
40205	M Priest	Arsenal	1.50
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00
40302	Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40401	M Redfern	Barnsley	2.50
40402	E Tinkler	Barnsley	2.50
40403	Shepherd	Barnsley	0.20
40404	M Sutcliffe	Barnsley	1.00
40501	J Wilson	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
40502	J Macfie	Blackburn Rovers	3.00

405071	A Thompson	South Widdersden	2.1
405072	A Thompson	South Widdersden	2.1
405083	P Frencken	South Widdersden	2.1
405084	P Frencken	South Widdersden	2.1
405086	J Pollock	South Widdersden	8.0
407011	A Thone	Celtic	4.0
407012	P O'Donnell	Celtic	4.0
407030	N Whitaker	Celtic	3.0
407074	C Bawley	Celtic	3.0
407076	P Lawlor	Celtic	3.0
408017	D White	Chelsea	3.0
408032	R J Adams	Chelsea	3.0
409003	E Neilson	Chelsea	3.0
409034	G Poy	Chelsea	1.0
409071	O O'Halloran	Coventry City	1.0
409082	T Southall	Coventry City	1.0
409093	J Tisdall	Coventry City	1.0
409094	P Tisdall	Coventry City	1.0
410002	S Pacey	Crystal Palace	1.0
410003	D Phipper	Crystal Palace	6.0
410004	P Wharton	Crystal Palace	1.0
410006	A Lomax	Crystal Palace	1.0
411001	A Anagnostis	Derby County	2.0
411002	R Murray	Derby County	1.0
411003	D Parnell	Derby County	1.0
411004	C Bailey	Derby County	1.0
411008	R Wan Der Laan	Derby County	1.0
411008	J Hunt	Derby County	1.0
412001	R White	Dundee United	3.0
413001	A Smith	Dundee United	1.0
414001	O Spittal	Swinton	1.0
414002	J Parkinson	Swinton	1.0
414003	G Fairclay	Swinton	1.0
414004	D Williams	Swinton	2.0
414005	J O'Leary	Swinton	2.0
415001	N McCann	Hibernian	2.0
415001	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.0

41802	A Hunsford	Leeds United	2.0
41803	A Shanks	Leeds United	2.0
41804	A Williams	Leeds United	2.0
41805	A Wilson	Leeds United	2.0
41806	B Parker	Leeds City	2.0
41807	M Lewinson	Leeds City	2.0
41808	M Jones	Leeds City	2.0
41809	S Taylor	Leeds City	1.5
42001	S McWilliamson	Liverpool	6.0
42002	O Lushardson	Liverpool	3.0
42003	A Liverpool	Liverpool	3.0
42004	J Redrupp	Liverpool	3.0
42005	P Price	Liverpool	4.0
42101	J Davidson	Manchester United	2.0
42102	R Briggs	Manchester United	7.0
42103	S Thompson	Manchester United	2.0
42104	B Hunt	Manchester United	4.0
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	2.0
42201	N Cheval	Manchester United	5.0
42202	R Law	Newcastle United	2.0
42203	R Law	Newcastle United	2.0
42204	D Barry	Newcastle United	2.5
42205	S Barnes	Newcastle United	2.5
42301	B Lawlor	Pargney	3.0
42302	J Thompson	Pargney	3.0
42303	P Gibson	Pargney	3.0
42304	A Palmer	Pargney	3.0
42501	E Carbone	Swaffeld Wednesday	3.0
42502	J Hewitson	Swaffeld Wednesday	3.0
42503	N Pennington	Swaffeld Wednesday	3.0
42504	E Wilson	Swaffeld Wednesday	3.0
42505	G Whittington	Swaffeld Wednesday	3.0
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.7
42703	R Slater	Southampton	0.8
42704	C Palmer	Southampton	3.0
42705	M Galloway	Southampton	3.0
42801	A Salsgrove	S. Andrews	1.7
42802	A Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42803	D O'Brien	Tottenham Hotspur	3.0
42804	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42805	J Harrison	Tottenham Hotspur	2.0
42806	E Beakford	West Ham United	2.5
42807	E Lomas	West Ham United	2.0
42808	J Morris	West Ham United	2.0
42901	R Eadie	Wimbledon	4.0
42902	M Lee	Wimbledon	2.0

Code	Name	Team	Price £
50101	B Dodds	Aberdeen	4.00
50201	I Wright	Arnsay	7.50
50302	D Bingham	Arnsay	7.50
50301	D Voeck	Arnsay Villa	5.00
50302	S Colquhoun	Aston Villa	5.00
50303	S Milosavljevic	Aston Villa	3.00
50401	G Hirston	Barnsley	1.50
50402	J Hendrie	Barnsley	2.00
51102	A Ward	Barnsley	1.00
50403	E Macauliffe	Barnsley	1.00
50501	R Gathcatter	Blackburn Rovers	5.50

50063	P. Beardsley	Bolton Wanderers	4
50064	R. Hesketh-Smith	Bolton Wanderers	4
51001	D. Jackson	Celtic	2
50708	T. Jackson	Celtic	2
50704	S. Donnelly	Celtic	2
50706	H. Larrison	Celtic	2
50601	R. Zola	Chelsea	4
50502	M. Hughes	Chelsea	3
50601	D. Dublin	Coventry City	3
50502	D. Huckerby	Coventry City	3
50602	N. Whelan	Coventry City	3
51003	M. Shipperley	Crystal Palace	2
51003	B. Dyer	Crystal Palace	2
51004	M. Padovanno	Crystal Palace	2
51101	R. Stuart	Derby County	2
51102	F. Baleno	Derby County	2
51102	D. Burton	Derby County	2
51102	B. Warrup	Derby County	2
51201	A. McFarlane	Dundee United	4
51202	N. O'Connell	Dundee United	4
51301	G. Britton	Dunderramine	4
51401	D. Peggiman	Exeter	2
51402	N. Bennett	Exeter	2
51404	D. Cadzowarrell	Exeter	2
51501	J. Baskerville	Hearts	2
51502	J. Hamilton	Hearts	2
51602	S. Crawford	Hibernian	2
51701	P. Wright	Kilmarnock	3
51702	A. Mitchell	Kilmarnock	3
51801	J. Henneschak	Leeds United	3
51803	N. Henneschak	Leeds United	3
51804	H. Kewell	Leeds United	3
51901	S. Clavidge	Lancaster City	4
51902	E. Heskey	Lancaster City	4
51903	I. Marshall	Lancaster City	4
51904	G. Fenton	Lancaster City	4

52101	O Scholberg	Manchester United	7
52102	T Uthman	Manchester United	7
52103	P Scholtes	Manchester United	7
52201	O Coyle	Motherwell	2
52202	T Byrne	Motherwell	2
52301	A Shearer	Newcastle United	10
52302	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	10
52304	J Tomaszewski	Newcastle United	2
52401	M Negri	Rangers	8
52402	S Fioravanti	Rangers	8
52403	G Durie	Rangers	8
52501	A Boco	Sheffield Wednesday	3
52502	P Di Santo	Sheffield Wednesday	3
52503	R Musilavsky	Sheffield Wednesday	3
52701	M La Tourelle	Southampton	7
52702	D Wilson	Southampton	7
52702	E Debatistad	Southampton	2
52704	K Davies	Southampton	2
52801	S O'Brien	St. Johnstone	1
52802	R Grant	St. Johnstone	1
52801	S Iversen	Tottenham Hotspur	3
52802	L Ferland	Tottenham Hotspur	3
52901	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	3
52902	J Hughes	Tottenham Hotspur	3
52903	J Hartson	Tottenham Hotspur	3
53002	P Kilonzi	West Ham United	1
53003	I Demele	West Ham United	1
53001	M Gillett	Wimbledon	4
53002	E Skjota	Wimbledon	4
53004	C Court	Wimbledon	3

MANAGERS		
Code	Name	Price £
60102	A Miller	1
60201	A Wenger	5
60301	B Little	2
60401	D Wilson	1
60501	R Hodgson	3
60601	C Todd	1
60701	W Jones	1
	Abderden	1
	Arnold	2
	Aston Villa	2
	Barnsley	1
	Birmingham	1
	Blackburn Rovers	3
	Black Wanderers	1

Code	Name	Team	Price \$
90102	A Miller	Abersdeen	1
90201	B Wenger	Abersdeen	2
90301	B Little	Acton Villa	1
90401	D Wilson	Barnesley	1
90501	R Woodcock	Blackburn Rovers	3
90601	C Todd	Bottom Wanderers	1
90701	W Wood	Carlisle	1
90801	R Griffith	Chelms	4
90901	G Stretcham	Cowenry City	1
91001	S Corbett	Crewe Palace	1
91101	J Smith	Darby County	1
91201	T McLean	Dundee United	1
91301	S Patton	Durhamham	2
91401	H Kendall	Everton	1
91501	J Jeffries	Haarlem	2
91601	J Duffy	Hazlet	1
91701	B Williamson	Hillemarn	1
91801	G Graham	Lincoln United	1
91901	N O'Neill	Llanelwyr City	1
92001	R Everts	Liverpool	3
92101	A Ferguson	Manchester United	3
92201	A McDuff	Mechwart	1
92301	C Doherty	Newcastle United	1
92401	W Smith	Rangers	1
92502	R Addison	Sheffiled Wednesday	1
92701	J Lewis	Southampton	1
93001	P Stewart	St. Johnstone	1
93002	C Grant	Tottenham Hotspur	2
93003	R Macgregor	Wolverhampton	2

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## SAILING

## Scoring system points way to brighter racing

By Edward Gorman, Sailing Correspondent

FINALLY, the Whitbread Round the World Race fleet is enjoying what Lawrie Smith, the British skipper of Silk Cut, yesterday called "proper yacht racing" as the crews continue their game of cat and mouse on the long beat across the Great Australian Bight towards the Bass Strait.

Smith is relishing the chance to mix it in a fleet-racing setting where trimming for speed, good crew-work, boat handling and sharp tactics make the difference between winning and losing. On the first two legs, there was precious little of this, when two boats 100 miles apart were considered close.

Now it is more like a giant Admiral's Cup race and that should suit the experienced inshore racers in the fleet such as Smith, Paul Cayard, on EF Language, John Kostecik, on Chessie Racing, and Roy Heiner, on BrunelSunery. Yesterday, the third day out from Fremantle, there was still less than 20 miles separating first — Paul Standbridge,

on Toshiba — from last — Knut Frostad, on Innovation Kvaerner — and average speeds were remarkably consistent throughout the fleet.

Having left the southwest tip of Australia behind, the fleet has spread out on a north-south axis over about 60 miles, with Cayard furthest north and Frostad furthest south. Grant Dalton, skipper of Merit Cup, the third-most northerly boat, said he believed that a mistake by anyone now could have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the leg.

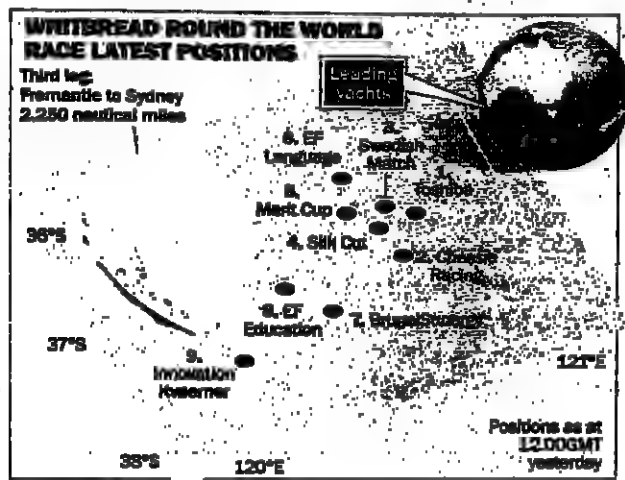
"Boats are starting to make their play for a north or south course, so it will be another 24 hours or so until things start to sort themselves out," Dalton said. "A mistake now could prove costly in the long run. I'm not prepared to say what we think, but there appear to be two schools of thought, although not radically different... the southern course taken by Kvaerner and the northern course by EF Language."

The fascination of this race has much to do with the new points system. Yesterday, for example, the fleet ranking order translated into final overall positions at the end of leg three, propels Standbridge into a 15-point lead over Cayard. There are then only 20 points separating Frostad from Dalton, who would have slipped from leading to fifth place, behind Swedish Match in third and Smith in fourth place. Dalton would be off the pace in seventh, a full 44 points adrift of Standbridge.

With positions of rival boats transmitted to the skippers every six hours, it is impossible for them to ignore the changing arithmetic of the points system, as they try to weigh up competing options on the course. There is no doubt, for example, that Dalton will do almost anything in the next few days to try to stop himself drifting down the fleet in a leg that he set out to win. It is hard to imagine him setting off at the beginning of leg four in three weeks' time, to his home port of Auckland, in seventh place overall.

Standbridge, meanwhile, is happy to be ahead after surviving a series of what he called his "heart-stopping moments" on Toshiba. All the drama happened as the yacht was passing Rottnest Island, shortly after the start of the leg at the weekend. First, the boat got stuck in a fish trap, then one of the halyard winches sheared from its mountings and flew into the sea and finally the depth transducer in the forward section of the hull popped out, flooding the bow compartment.

"After that, we settled down to a night of crashing and banging, short tacking our way south in up to 28 knots," Standbridge said yesterday. "At the moment, it is a drag race for the first time."



DISTANCE TO FINISH (as at 12:00 GMT, in miles to Sydney): 1. Toshiba (US) 1,645.2; 2. Chessie Racing (US) 1,648.3; 3. Swedish Match (Swe) 1,648.6; 4. Silk Cut (GB) 1,649.5; 5. Merit Cup (Monaco) 1,652.3; 6. EF Language (Swe) 1,652.4; 7. BrunelSunery (Hol) 1,654.7; 8. EF Education (Swe) 1,660.9; 9. Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 1,665.0.

## Sun goes down on calamitous Cowboys

By Oliver Holt



Lake Dowson scores a spectacular touchdown as Kansas City defeat San Diego

THE spotlight fell on the fall from disgrace of the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. Like Ian Wright, the Arsenal footballer, they appear to have conquered their extracurricular problems only at the expense of their on-field prowess and, as they slid out of the National Football League (NFL) play-off picture with another embarrassing defeat, the club that has inherited their mantle of America's Team surged on towards the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys, who have won the National Football Conference (NFC) East division title for the past five years, collapsed to a 31-24 defeat at the hands of the Cincinnati Bengals. They have now lost nine of their 15 games this season — the first time for seven years that they have failed to progress beyond the regular season.

Against a background of reports that, earlier in the week, Troy Aikman, the Cowboys quarterback, had stormed off the training field despairing of his colleagues' performance and attitude, fevered speculation has continued about the fate of the Dallas coach, Barry Switzer.

"We played a pretty good ball game," Switzer said, "except for the second and third quarters, when it was disastrous." That provoked more mirth about the pronouncements of a man once labelled Bozo the Coach. His statement, one American commentator said, was like crediting Saddam Hussein with having a good Gulf War until the United States got involved.

The architect of the Cowboys' downfall was Boomer Esiason, the veteran Bengals quarterback, who passed for 269 yards and two touchdowns. It was the Cowboys' fourth successive loss and their seventh consecutive defeat away from their home field in Texas.

The Green Bay Packers, however, seem to be going from strength to strength. The Super Bowl champions and new idols of the sport have won their past four games and appear to be peaking at just the right time, vying now for home-field advantage throughout the play-offs.

which would virtually guarantee a return to the Super Bowl in San Diego next month.

Against the Carolina Panthers, at the Erikson Stadium in Charlotte, where the home team used to be so dominant, the Packers eased past their hosts 31-10 with another superlative performance from Brett Favre, their quarterback. Obviously for the rest, though, the Packers' running game also seems to be coming good at just the right time.

The win took the Packers' record to 12 wins and three defeats and piled the pressure on the San Francisco 49ers, the other dominant team in the NFC, to beat the Denver Broncos last night in the race for home-field advantage. Next weekend is the last in the regular season.

Dorsey Levens, the Packers' leading running back, rushed 17 times for 73 yards, but the best move of the game was made by Antonio Freeman, the wide receiver. With the Packers leading 17-3 in the third quarter, Freeman executed a wonderful feint that deceived his covering player and freed him to receive Favre's bullet throw.

If the Cowboys' decline has been spectacular, then so, too, has the improvement of the New York Jets. The whipping boys of the NFL last season with just one win, they moved to within an ace of the play-offs on Sunday by routing the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 31-0 in New Jersey.

The Buccaneers, who have scraped through to the play-offs, were overrun by the Jets, who can now clinch their own place by beating the Detroit Lions in Michigan next week, a result that would bring their tenth victory this year. They could even clinch the American Football Conference East division title if the New England Patriots and the Miami Dolphins tie in Florida, a scenario that would have been ridiculed a year ago.

"Tampa Bay has a young team," Bill Parcells, the Jets' coaching alchemist, said, "and we got the jump on them today. Maybe they had a tough time keeping things in perspective." Perhaps that problem is afflicting Switzer, too.

## RESULTS AND TABLES

RESULTS: Atlanta 20 Philadelphia 17; Baltimore 21 Tennessee 15; Buffalo 14 Jacksonville 22 Cincinnati 31 Dallas 24; Indianapolis 41 Miami 0 Minnesota 13 Detroit 14; New York Jets 31 Tampa Bay 0; Carolina 10 Green Bay 21; New Orleans 27 Arizona 10; Oakland 21 Seattle 22; San Diego 7 Kansas City 25; St Louis 10 Chicago 15.			
Not including last night's match: San Francisco 0 Denver 7			
* denotes qualified for play-offs (division winners)			
APC Eastern division			
	W	L	T
Miami	9	0	257
New England	9	0	255
NY Jets	9	0	255
Buffalo	6	0	234
Indianapolis	8	2	265
APC Western division			
	W	L	T
Pittsburgh	11	4	265
Jackville	10	5	274
Tennessee	7	8	317
Baltimore	6	9	257
Cincinnati	6	9	236
APC Central division			
	W	L	T
Kansas City	12	3	260
Denver	11	4	217
Seattle	7	8	307
Oakland	4	11	255
San Diego	4	11	255
NFC Eastern division			
	W	L	T
NY Giants	9	7	257
Washington	7	7	257
Philadelphia	6	8	255
Dallas	6	8	257
Arizona	3	12	254
NFC Western division			
	W	L	T
Green Bay	12	3	261
Tampa Bay	11	4	258
Detroit	8	7	255
Minnesota	6	8	218
New Orleans	4	11	246
NFC Central division			
	W	L	T
St Louis	12	3	261
Chicago	11	4	258
NFC Eastern division			
	W	L	T
NY Giants	9	7	257
Washington	7	7	257
Philadelphia	6	8	255
Dallas	6	8	257
Arizona	3	12	254

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

I saw this hand in the 1995 Oxford v Cambridge bridge match.

West East  
♠ A Q J 8 4 2 ♠ K 10  
♥ K 9 5 ♥ J 8 6 4  
♦ A J 5 ♦ K Q 4 3  
♣ 5 ♣ 6 2

This was the auction:  
1S 2H  
4S (1) 4D (2)  
4S (2) 4NT (3)  
5C (4) 6H

1) "Splinter" bid, showing heart support and a singleton club.

2) Cue-bids

3) Roman Key Card Blackwood

4) 0 or 3 of the five "aces". (The regular four, plus the king of trumps).

Six Hearts is an indifferent contract, and Six Spades is laydown barring a red suit void. What went wrong?

The worst bid in the auction was West's Four Clubs. An important requirement for making a splinter bid is to have good trump support, almost invariably at least four cards.

West should have bid Three Spades over Two Hearts. Admittedly it is not clear what East should do then, but it would be reasonable for him to continue with Four Diamonds.

When West bids Four Hearts East goes back to Four Spades, and now West can see that at the Four Diamonds bid was a cue bid in support of spades.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

and b) that East does not have waste in clubs — he has clearly bid Four Diamonds on second-round control, so cannot have second-round control of clubs.

Thus West can continue with Four No-Trumps and when East shows two of the five key cards (remember, spades is now the agreed suit and so the king of spades is the fifth ace), he can bid Six Spades.

The Gold Cup has been won by Alan Mould's team (Gary Hyatt, John Collins, Martin Jones, Paul Bowyer and John Helme). In the final, played in Peebles, they beat Ian Reissmann's team (Mike Perkins, Su Burn, Steve Eginton, Sally and Raymond Brock) by 60 IMPs. Mould beat Townsend and Reissmann beat Steel in the semi-finals.

The Macallan International Bridge Pairs Championship 1998 will be played at The White House Hotel, Albany Street, London NW1 from Wednesday January 21 to Friday January 23. Tickets and information are available from the Macallan Box Office, 31 Queens Road, Mortlake, London SW14 8PH. Tel: 0181-878 5844.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

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Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British advance

In the third round of the Fide (World Chess Federation) championship in Groningen, Holland, the British grandmasters Nigel Short and Michael Adams both won.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Sergei Tiviakov

Fide world championship Groningen, December 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5

2 Nf3 d5

3 Bb5+ Nc6

4 O-O Bc7

5 Bc3 Nf6

6 d3 e6

7 Bf1 Bg4

8 d3 g6

9 Nbd2 Bg7

10 Bc3 Bc5

11 Nc3 O-O

12 c4 cxd4

13 cxd4 Rf1

14 Bc3 Rf7

15 Bf1 Qb6

16 Bf1 Qb6

17 Bf1 Qb6

18 Bf1 Qb6

19 Bf1 Qb6

20 Bf1 Qb6

21 Bf1 Qb6

22 Bf1 Qb6

23 Bf1 Qb6

24 Bf1 Qb6

25 Bf1 Qb6

26 Bf1 Qb6

27 Bf1 Qb6

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

Black resigns

White to play. This position is from the game Yates — Colle, Hastings 1926. Black has lost his e-pawn and thus has great difficulties defending his exposed king. He has ferried his queen over to help but White now demonstrated that this piece is also a target. How did the game conclude?

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46

Solution on page 46



Times writers continue to cast their eyes over the best sports books of the year

## Discerning view from chroniclers of new professional age

WHAT one yearns most for in sport is perspective. Rugby union needs it more than most as it struggles to come to terms with professionalism and it gets it from Ian Malin in *Mud, Blood and Money*. Malin, a journalist with *The Guardian*, subtitles his book: *English Rugby Union goes Professional* and paints a picture of a sport twisting and turning in desperation for the way forward.

Yet he does not isolate his subject, he does not remove it from the real world in the way that the oncrop of narratives on the British Isles tour to South Africa this summer do. For so many of the authors and their ghosts, there is

only the tour: they are as far removed from the perceptive and intelligent books on rugby touring that prospered during the Sixties and Seventies — mostly from the typewriters of Terry McLean and John Reason — as it is possible to be.

One's emotions are tugged by Malin from the very start: his dedication is to Ian Tucker, the Australian at Oxford University who died as the result of a tackle during a game last year. It does no harm to be reminded that the game survives on a basis of self-discipline and self-restraint, features which have required application off the field as much as on it during the

frantic politicking in which the English game has indulged.

The style is that of one standing on the edge of a cliff, appreciative of the view but apprehensive in case he should fall. There is an intimacy as Malin pokes his notebook into the doings of Marock RFC in darkest Somerset and into student rugby, into the perils that could befall an England captain then and now and a painful awareness of losing a friend with whom you were brought up but who has now developed into someone, well, someone different.

That difference is admirably portrayed by John Hart, coach to New Zealand. Four years ago, Hart

### RUGBY UNION

by David Hands

joined with Paul Thomas to write *Straight from the Hart* — part biography, part philosophy — and it sold 33,000 copies, which would be good going here, but in New Zealand was amazing for a sports tome.

Now comes *Change of Hart* (due to be available here in the new year), which covers the period from Hart's elevation — at the third attempt — in 1995 to the position of national coach, which he will hold

until the 1999 World Cup. The two books are complementary, but the second suggests that New Zealand, probably for the wrong reasons, were right to give Hart his head in the immediate wake of the game going professional.

He brings to the game the formidable man-management and organisational skills that distinguished his business career with Fletcher Challenge Ltd. The book is largely an account of 1996, the year in which the All Blacks put behind them the loss of the World Cup final the previous year and showed the game just how it should be played and how much it meant to New Zealanders to win a series in

South Africa for the first time. However, Hart has a vision for the game which encompasses more than the global branding he seeks for the All Blacks, which starts intently at the possibility of rugby as a genuine world game — which, at present, it is not. He also concludes his book with words that may strike a chord in the light of pronouncements last week within the English game: "The more I'm involved, the more I see the need to support the amateur game and winning the World Cup would bring in the revenue to sustain our game at all levels."

Perhaps there is a touch of the amateur about Miles Harrison —

though not, I hasten to add, in the work he puts in which have helped develop his reputation as an informative television commentator. It is more the sense of boyish enthusiasm that runs through *Best Seat in the House*, the most readable of the Lions tour books. Harrison was fortunate in that his first Lions tour was a winning one. Like Malin, he brings a wider perspective to the work and enables us to share his enjoyment.

□ *Mud, Blood and Money*, by Ian Malin (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99). □ *Change of Hart*, by Paul Thomas (Hodder Moe Beckman). □ *Best Seat in the House*, by Miles Harrison (Aurum Press, £14.95).

## Trying to revive a once-proud literary tradition

IT WAS not the point of the piece, but the introduction to Murray Hedgcock's fascinating and delightfully produced little book, *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, provides a plausible explanation as to where cricket acquired its reputation for distinguished literary, a reputation that, in modern times, has sometimes appeared cruelly misplaced.

P. G. Wodehouse, one of the greatest comic writers in the English language, was a useful club player and ardent cricket fan who, as Hedgcock's compendium shows, loved to weave the game into his stories. Wodehouse once took nine for 14 during a school match at Dulwich and, until he settled in the United States, the game formed an integral part of his life.

What is striking is the apparent importance of cricket to the Edwardian literary set. Wodehouse frequently took the field with the likes of Arthur Conan Doyle, E. W. Hornung, J. M. Barrie, Hugh de Selincourt and Alec Waugh — and was far from the only one to incorporate the game into his fiction. Hornung wrote several stories around the magnificent Raffles, the gentleman thief and demon bowler, and de Selincourt penned arguably the finest fictional account of a game in *The Cricket Match*.

Nor was theirs the first celebrated literary circle to treasure the summer game: that honour goes to the Romantic group that included Charles Lamb, William Hazlitt and Leigh Hunt, and one of whom, John Noyes, chronicled the glory days of Hambledon, the first great cricket club, whose story is put into intriguingly fresh perspective by Ashley Mote and Peter Wynne-Thomas respectively in two more of the year's best books. No wonder the aspiring but not so well connected Lancastrian, Neville Cardus, took to writing about the game.

Cricket was also popular among thespians, who met the authors in an annual fixture at Lord's for many years, as we are reminded by Grenville Simon's diligent and affect-

### CRICKET

by Simon Wilde

tionate biography of his distant ancestor, William Yardley. In his day, Yardley was reckoned as a batsman to be second only to W. G. Grace, but, at the age of 29, he threw in the game for the theatre, where he enjoyed acclaim, as actor, critic and playwright.

As long as cricket remained thoroughly English, literature had a use for it: once that ceased to be the case, separation was assured. That point was apparently reached by the Fifties when, from across the Atlantic, Wodehouse, for one, noticed a difference. "What's happened to English cricket?" he wrote to a friend. "I understand there aren't any amateurs any more... If I came back to England in the summer, I wonder if I'd find cricket interesting."

Wodehouse never did come back, one reason being that he was afraid of a hostile reception, having made some wartime radio broadcasts that had been perceived in England as unpatriotic — a factor not referred to in Hedgcock's work. He died, a baseball fan, in 1975.

For many years now, cricket writing has lain largely in the hands of professional journalists, amateur enthusiasts and contributors to *Test Match Special*, which trades with diminishing success on its once-quintessential English-



Atherton: biography

ness. It is a big business. In quantity if not originality or sales (unless Ian Botham's name is on the cover).

Journalists have tended to focus on the contemporary scene in the hope of reaching the mass-market (their laptops this year turning out, among other things, biographies of Michael Atherton and Jack Russell and two players' eye accounts of the Ashes series), amateurs on the nostalgic (biographies of long-ago heroes such as Grace, Sydney Barnes and Sammy Woods) and the worthy but ephemeral (histories of the game in Hertfordshire and under-arm bowling are among 1997's quainter offerings).

What is most noticeably absent is humour — which would not have amused Wodehouse. It is refreshing, therefore, when author and publisher dare to attempt something different and touched with human warmth, as is the case with Simon Hughes's alarmingly honest diary of his 15 years as a county cricketer, *A Lot of Hard Yakkas*. It is worth reading to the end, if only to hear about Botham and the dolcelatte.

Another revivifyingly off-beat diary is David Hopps's year-long odyssey that sets against England's travails and triumphs against Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Australia his own battles at the head of his Yorkshire village XI. While Atherton's leadership survives a traumatic year, the author's does not.

□ *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, edited by Murray Hedgcock (Hutchinson, £12.99). □ *We're Right Behind You, Captain!*, by David Hopps (Robson, £17.95). □ *A Lot of Hard Yakkas*, by Simon Hughes (Headline, £16.99). □ *The Glory Days of Cricket: The Extraordinary Story of Broadhalfpenny Down*, by Ashley Mote (Robson, £22.95). □ *William Yardley: Master of Bar and Burlesque*, by Grenville Simon (Winstons Books, Brix Street, Birmmington, M4 6JN, £15 plus £1.50 p&h). □ *The History of Cricket: From the World to the World*, by Peter Wynne-Thomas (available from The Stationery Office, £25).

## Madness in top coach's methods

ALTHOUGH Nick Bollettieri's account of his life to date gives away little about his coaching methods, it serves one very useful purpose. All parents with a child prodigy on their hands are forewarned of the man's values. *My Aces, My Faults* extols the virtues of vanity, fast-food chains, distorted priorities and an overbearing sense of the man's own worth.

Like Andre Agassi, its most famed graduate, Bollettieri's tennis academy is a product of fashion over substance. It is a dangerous move to bind fashion between hardback covers, a point that comes across forcibly in this book. Much of it is devoted to Agassi and Monica Seles, both of whose names generated resonance when Bollettieri's work was published in June. The question now gripping the world of tennis is not their stardom, but their ability to survive the course.

Tennis, with its one-on-one encounters, is truly a mind game and Bollettieri's ability to engage the mind is



Bollettieri's need to control his charges is a warning for parents of tennis prodigies

### TENNIS

by Julian Muscat

his greatest asset. As the sport's original psychiatrist, he has chosen a medium offering plenty of suitable candidates. The fallouts from such relationships are always spectacular, however, and Bollettieri's fiercest barbs are reserved for rival coaches who have simply outspiced him. In fashioning their own mind poisons, they render his obsolete.

Essentially, Bollettieri's message is that he must control every facet of his charges to ensure the maximum reward. The irony is that his own disjointed personal life reflects the fallacy of that philosophy. This book is worth a read for all the wrong reasons: it should be compulsory bedside matter for overzealous tennis parents.

Given Bollettieri's massive of tennis as we approach the millennium, the publishers of *A Handful of Summers* have reported Gordon Forbes's assorted memoirs at precisely the right time. It makes a compelling account

of a wide-eyed South African youth learning lessons in life as well as tennis on his international travels.

A compulsive sleepwalker, Forbes's account of the night that he shared a room with Rod Laver embraces some of the finest literature conceived from a sportsman's pen. If this offering falls squarely within reflections on a bygone age, no apologies are necessary. Interest surrounding the recent seniors' match between John

McEnroe and Bjorn Borg demonstrated the demand for such nostalgia.

In a similar vein, *The Ballad of Worpole Road* — a poetic tribute to the development of Wimbledon, by Max Robertson, formerly of BBC Radio 4 — will appeal to those of a light-hearted disposition. This is ideal material for those with long memories, although some things never change. One of many enjoyable cartoons by Loon depicts the infant

Suzanne Lenglen receiving the gift of a tennis racket from her father, who fashioned her remarkable career. The teenage sensation is far from a Nineties phenomenon.

□ *My Aces, My Faults*, by Nick Bollettieri and Dick Schapp (Robson Books, £17.95). □ *A Handful of Summers*, by Gordon Forbes (Harper Collins, £5.99). □ *The Ballad of Worpole Road*, by Max Robertson (Queen Anne Press, £9.99).

## Rewriting history without heroes

IMAGINE reading a history of British football without George Best, a tome on racing this century without Lester Piggott or a retrospective on Wimbledon without Virginia Wade. The urge to return such books to the shelf, there to gather dust, would be overwhelming. Alongside those, there is a place for *In the Swim*, which boasts of charting "the full history" of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) from 1869.

The index hints at the horror to come. No Grinham or Lonsborough to be found. Could this be right? Well, let's try another Olympic champion, Moorhouse. No, afraid not. Gillingham or Hardcastle? No. Sharron Davies, then? No. Oh dear. Some of these names are in fact granted passing mentions in the book, even the odd photograph, but any discerning reader is left open-mouthed by the failure to tell the sport's headline success stories and reflect the life and colour of its most famous characters.

### SWIMMING

by Craig Lord

The authors lament the lack of media coverage of the sport since its heyday in the Fifties and Sixties, when British swimmers won Olympic, European and Commonwealth titles. "It is ironic that it could well be that swimmers lacked interest because they behaved themselves," the authors wall in confirmation that, like the ASA itself, they have not understood the issue. This book and the ASA should spend more time publicising the association's great successes and less turning the public off with a welter of information about how well its bureaucracy works.

If there is anything to commend in the book, it is the excellent use of old newspaper and magazine cuttings, postcards, cartoons and other artwork that tell the story of swimming in pictures. Generally, however, *In the Swim* is best left to sink without trace.

□ *In the Swim*, by Ian Kell and Don Wix (Swimming Times Ltd, £9.95).

## King inspires with tale of triumph over adversity

MARY KING'S story is one to inspire every horse-mad teenager. Born to a non-horsey family in the Devon village of Salcombe Regis, where her father is a vergar, King learnt to ride on the vicar's pony. When she was 11, she was taken to Badminton, at her insistence, and announced on the return trip that she wanted to become an event rider.

However, money was scarce and there was no "ready-made" pony for King to climb aboard, so her mother, Jill, managed to borrow ponies for her daughter to ride at the Ake Vale Pony Club. On leaving school, King went to the yard of Sheila Wilcox, three times a Badminton winner and a renowned taskmaster. Hard graft over 2½ years with Wilcox gave King the basic skills and tenacity to embark on an eventing career.

After a series of setbacks, financial relief came in the form of sponsorship by Carphone. Gill Robinson, then a director of the company, has supported King ever since. A win at Badminton in 1992 on King William fulfilled King's childhood ambition. Since then, a team gold medal at the 1994 world championships and two European team gold medals have firmly established her in the top echelons of the sport.

King has collaborated with her selfless former groom, Annie Collings, and gives humorous insights into the horses that have shaped her career. The handsome King William, brilliant across country, but a careless showjumper, is likened to Gregory Peck, the film star. Star Appeal, her 1996 Burghley winner, is "a thug" who "tries his heart out"; King Solomon, on which she won Blenheim last year, is "a mischief-maker with a touch of class". But it is the tall-swishing King Boris, on

### EQUESTRIANISM

by Jenny MacArthur

which King won the British Open in 1990, for whom she retains the deepest affection. "I can never thank Boris enough for his courage and confidence... he gave me the chance to learn so much and yet he was still learning himself."

The accompanying picture — one many superb glossy offerings — of Boris's horrid nose at the Normandy Bank at Badminton in 1988 testifies to that courage. The next year, he returned to Badminton and finished second.

Those in search of more cerebral reading should turn to Mary Wanless's thought-provoking *For The Good of the Horse*. Wanless, who has a degree in physics and lectures internationally on body-mind integration, has developed her own style of teaching riding, based on the need to minimise the stresses that riders inevitably place on the fit, stable horse.

The advent of horse dentists, physiotherapists, chiropractors and other types of healers has brought about, Wanless feels, "a quiet revolution" in riding and horse care as approaches once labelled "alternative" are gradually becoming accepted. With 16 years of research behind it, this book, which includes chapters on dentistry, saddlery and farriery, offers a fascinating reappraisal of our whole approach to the handling and care of the horse.

□ *All The Kings' Horses*, by Mary King and Annie Collings (David & Charles, £15.99). □ *For The Good of the Horse*, by Mary Wanless (Kendall Press, £19.95).

## Home from the sea with some epic stories to tell

ANYONE already signed up for Sir Chay Blyth's next great race for amateurs in 2000 should read *On Equal Terms* by Marina Cantacuzino, just to be absolutely sure that their money is going to be well spent and that the experience is one they will enjoy.

The book may be about the travails of the disabled crew aboard *Time & Tide* during the BT Global Challenge, which finished earlier this year, but many of the experiences and problems unfurlingly described in it apply equally to able-bodied crews.

*Time & Tide*'s circumnavigation was a triumph for a crew many thought should not have been allowed even to attempt the race and much of the book deals with the struggles involved coping with disabilities ranging from a lost limb to diabetes.

The book also deals at length with the conflicts that quickly surfaced, the difficulties some of the crew had getting on with their skipper, James Hatfield, the frustration some felt about not being given a chance to helm the boat or learn how to sail properly and the resentment caused by differing views as to how hard they actually wanted to race their boat.

Some, notably Lesley Bowden, the long-suffering medic, also discovered what many professional sailors already know — that offshore ocean racing for long periods can be an uncomfortable, unglamorous and unpleasant business.

Cantacuzino has done a very thorough job, sketching detailed portraits of the many people who joined the boat at various stages and then charting the race in a readable narrative that draws on extensive interviews and diary accounts. The emphasis throughout is on the personalities and on the ever-changing

### SAILING

by Edward Gorman

balance between the strong and the weak, both physically and mentally.

Raphael Dinelli, the Frenchman rescued from certain death in the Southern Ocean by Pete Goss in this year's Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race, is an angry young man determined to show the French sailing establishment that he is good enough to race round the world. His book, *Rescue from Beyond the Reeling Forties*, is a generally well-translated account of how he ended up standing on the coach roof of a sinking *Algoimous* in freezing seas, while Goss beat through 70-knot headwinds to find him.

Here is Dinelli after standing for hours in the frozen water: "It was terrible and it just seemed to go on and on. Each wave that struck me choked and froze, working down inside my suit. I could feel my feet locking up with the cold. I started dancing on the flooded, swept deck to keep my circulation going. I must have seemed like a madman, that black night in the midst of a raging sea..."

We have not heard the last of Dinelli, who has secured sponsorship to build a new Open 60 to campaign in next year's Around Alone race and then the Vendée in 2000. Perhaps in one of these marathons he will finally fulfill his dream.

□ *On Equal Terms*, by Marina Cantacuzino (Simon & Schuster, £16.99). □ *Rescue from Beyond the Reeling Forties*, by Raphael Dinelli (Adlard Coles Nautical, £14.99).

## Purist puts case in battle for soul of Viennese Waltz

ABOUT five million people go dancing in Great Britain each week, whether to compete or dance socially in traditional ballroom, the more recent salsa or in sequence and old time, but the literature available for them to read is surprisingly sparse. Even sparser is the field of books aimed at the modern dance sport competitor.

This is likely to change with the acceptance by the International Olympic Committee of dance sport as a fully-fledged Olympic event, through recognition of the International Dance Sport Federation, the Swiss-based amateur body. Early off the mark this Christmas is Harry Smith-Hampshire, the world's leading expert on the Viennese Waltz, with a book that is a must for all competitive dancers.

Smith-Hampshire, undefeated in the Viennese between winning the European professional championship in 1995 and his retirement from competition dancing in 1961, provides great technical detail. His book is likely to appeal mostly to those aiming for Olympic gold medals, although anyone in the competitive sphere would find it useful.

It comes at a time when the world of dance sport is torn over the Viennese, danced more often in competitions on the Continent than in Britain. Smith-Hampshire and other purists worldwide want the dance to remain restricted to four figures: the reverse and natural turns and the reverse and natural feckers, which are difficult, fast turns on the spot. They are engaged in heated debate with modernisers calling for lifts, curties and other figures to be introduced to add excitement and interest. However, the four standard competitive figures remain those

### DANCE SPORT

by Ruth Gledhill

authorised for competitive use and these are the ones Smith-Hampshire analyses.

Of all the five traditional ballroom dances, which have recently been unimaginatively renamed the standard dances, the Viennese is the most fun and most energetic to dance. Simply remaining upright can be a problem, due to the dizziness caused by the unceasing turns. For the novice female, remaining in a standing position is often achieved purely by clinging on for grim life to a partner.

While such a pose achieves zero marks on the competitive floor, it is in this style of social interaction that the dance has its origins. As Smith-Hampshire explains, the feckler, the foundation step of the Viennese, dates from centuries ago, to the robust alpine folk dances of Austria and Germany, when couples rotated on the spot in triple time, holding each other closely.

The speed of the dance — between 60 and 70 bars a minute — dictates that there can be no "rise and fall". Competitors who fail to maintain a shallow arc as they spin around the floor can too easily come to grief in a scrambled melee of legs and arms as, like a swaying suspension bridge, they lose control of themselves and their partners.

It is such disasters that Smith-Hampshire, with his detailed analysis of technique, is keen to avert.

□ *The Viennese Waltz* (Supadance, 159 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, IG9 5BA, £6.50 incl p&h).











RUGBY UNION

# Saracens lead the upward march of game's new order

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT HAS taken them more than a year, but the money spent by Saracens and Newcastle seems to have broken the stranglehold on English rugby by Bath and Leicester — and, to a lesser degree, Wasps.

That the old order is changing has been apparent this season, the only query being whether the newcomers can sustain their charge to the top or whether their bubble will burst. With two-thirds of the premiership season still to go, neither Saracens nor Newcastle will be making rash predictions, but already they have shown the kind of quality that has garnered in the points from which confidence grows.

But are Bath, Wasps and Sale — contenders for Europe and cup finalists last season but beaten by 50 points at Leicester over the weekend — declining forces, or did special circumstances attend their most recent games? Bath and Wasps played uncharacteristically badly, whereas Sale, when they had the ball, played to some effect at Welford Road. Their problem was that Leicester allowed them such meagre possession.

John Mitchell, the director of rugby at Sale, admitted that his absence with England for most of November had not helped, but added sternly: "I expect professional players to prepare themselves properly. We have lost momentum after starting November on a high." But, if Mitchell's absence affected Sale, how much more would the absence with Eng-

## TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saracens	10	7	0	3	185	103	14
Newcastle	10	6	0	4	180	102	12
Leicester	10	6	0	4	181	181	12
Leicester	10	5	1	4	127	78	11
Leicester	10	5	0	5	252	201	10
Richmond	10	5	0	5	134	120	10
Bath	10	5	0	5	190	196	10
Northampton	10	5	0	5	138	120	10
Gloucester	10	5	0	5	147	148	10
Wasps	10	5	0	5	152	153	10
London Irish	10	5	0	5	90	180	10
Bristol	10	5	0	5	92	252	10

land of Rob Smith, Pat Fox and Phil Keith-Roach have affected Wasps?

All three are key members of the Wasps coaching panel and were required by England to look after the A team, the conditioning and the scrumming respectively. The absence of competitive rugby may not have been crucial, as Saracens and Newcastle demonstrated, but if the quality of work done in training declined due to the absence of management personnel, the individual clubs would be obliged to monitor the situation even more closely.

Yet that was not the case with Bath. They may have been without Mike Catt when they lost 50-23 at Welford Road on Sunday, but they still fielded 13 internationals, many of whom allowed themselves to be pulled around the pitch with a naivety that can hardly be imagined.

It could be argued that minds may have been on this Saturday's Heineken Cup semi-final with Pau (who also lost their French championship match with Bourgoin,

29-9) but that has never been the Bath way.

"They have always focused on the match in hand and, when playing badly, have dug deep into reserves of character that have allowed them, more often than not, to win by a handful of points. It was the absence of such character that neutral observers found most disturbing on Sunday.

However, the successful clubs must also be credited with getting their preparation right. "I have enormous respect for Bath and what they have achieved," Mark Evans, the director of rugby at Saracens, said, "but we should have scored 20 more points against them.

"I don't think we played brilliantly and we have all the hard work still to do. No one has taken us too seriously as contenders until now, and that's an easy position from which to motivate yourself. We are there to be shot at now, and how we respond to that will be interesting."

Similarly, Wasps, as league winners last season, were there to be shot at and, initially, their European campaign suggested that they were handling the problem well; however, once they started losing games and key players with injuries, they were unable to turn the tide.

Leicester, who suffered hiccups in the premiership at Northampton and in Europe, have more experience of dealing with the hard times. "You learn from the school of hard knocks," Duncan Hall, their assistant coach, said, with reference to the demanding second half of last season.

"We learnt so much from the first year of full-time training. We have stayed relatively injury-free and we have tried to align our training with that of England."

Leicester have also played their youngsters in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup, alongside their overseas players, with a beneficial effect. Two of them, Lewis Moody and Paul Gustard, appear tonight in the Allied Dunbar Premiership game at Richmond, though Eric Miller is absent on Ireland duty, and Austin Healey and Darren Garforth are rested.

Richmond are without Spencer Brown, their England A wing, who damaged a cheekbone in the win over Bristol but give a Premiership debut to Agustín Pichot, their Argentina scrum half.



Thorpe, of Exeter, is held up close to the line against Edinburgh yesterday

## Vobe leads Cardiff rout

By MICHAEL AYLWIN

CARDIFF Institute set out their stall as the Times Student European Rugby Championship got under way yesterday. Cardiff host one of the four pools, but the welcome they extended to Queen's, Belfast was less than hospitable. They ran 16 tries past their plucky visitors in a 107-10 rout. There were hat-tricks for Graham Thomas and Chris Wall, while Gedlin Vobe scored 22 points with a try, seven conversions and a dropped goal.

Gareth Cooper, who was the Wales Schools scrum half last season, claimed a brace, including a spectacular effort from within his own 22.

Cardiff play their Saturday rugby in the first division of the Welsh League and the fitness and pace that such standards demand proved too much for Queen's, who nevertheless persevered to register their only try in the 71st minute. Cardiff will not be unduly



concerned, either, by events in the concurrent fixture in their pool, between Edinburgh and Exeter. Edinburgh deserved to shade a draw contest 20-17. Both sides scored two tries, Richard Bibby and Richard Griffiths for Edinburgh and Paul Griffiths and Torguul Gordon-Duff for Exeter.

Ian Banks's kicking proved decisive for Edinburgh, but neither team were expected to achieve anything like the levels of performance that might have given Queen's some-

thing approaching hope in their efforts to live with the hosts.

In Cork, a powerful Oxford team proved too strong for Bristol, defeating them 42-17 in an open match full of running rugby. Seven tries were scored with Oxford providing five of them. Schalk van Rensburg took the first, while Duncan Grewcock and Richard Woodbine scored two each. The Oxford forwards, still smarting from their defeat in the University match, dominated Bristol and a lot of possession was turned over their way as a result.

A 25-0 lead was secured by half-time and Oxford retained control of the match for the opening ten minutes of the second half, when a couple of Bristol tries would have been opportune. These were not to arrive however until midway through the second period, thanks to Danny Wilson and Toby Robinson, allowing the young Bristol side to take nothing more than pride from the match.

## Glasgow trying to bridge the gap

By KEVIN FERRIE

GLASGOW District yesterday moved closer to achieving the type of structure that they believe they need to become truly competitive in Europe by selecting a 42-strong elite development squad.

This route is the one many leading figures in the game believe Scottish rugby must now follow, as agonising continues over the recent capitulation to Australia and humbling at the hands of South Africa.

Calls for the removal of the national coach, Richie Dixon, have been accompanied by renewed demands for a solution to the damaging clubs v districts controversy, which led to the compromised domestic schedule and to such an unsatisfactory preparation for the meetings with the southern hemisphere powers.

However, the overriding impression has been of a shortage of raw talent, leaving Scotland unable to compensate for the loss of several key players.

Keith Robertson, the new Glasgow coach, has pointed out how, in his native New Zealand, young players are drawn into the provincial set-up directly from school, rather than coming through the clubs. While eager to point out that they do not want to bypass the clubs, Glasgow's creation of this elite squad addresses the perception that players are arriving at representative level ill-equipped.

"Our aim is to provide selected players with the information and opportunities to develop into complete players with the physical and mental ability to represent Glasgow and Scotland," David Jordan, the Glasgow chief executive, said. That players in the senior district squad are not receiving that sort of preparation at the moment seems to be underlined by the news of the resignation of John McHarg, coach of Kilmarnock Falcons, the district's third-highest placed club side.

"If they want to play a social style of rugby I have no problems with that, I just have no wish to be part of it," McHarg explained.

Glasgow's elite group, including players from under-18 level and a quarter of graduates from the under-21 squad, will take part in seven sessions between January and March, covering fitness, diet, psychology and laws, as well as one-to-one coaching.

Scotland A will play Northern Transvaal in Glasgow on January 23. Scotland developed close links with the South African province when they were based in Pretoria for the 1995 World Cup.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Oldham to miss knockout challenge

**RUGBY LEAGUE:** Oldham, who were Challenge Cup winners as far back as 1899, are being omitted from this season's competition. The decision to leave them out was taken after the Lancashire club went into liquidation and before the new club was launched. "Decisions had to be taken in early November when Oldham weren't in existence," Peter Rowe, a spokesman for the Rugby Football League, said. The other 18 first and second division clubs will join the 22 amateur survivors from this weekend's second-round ties in the third round on January 31.

### National service

**HOCKEY:** Five players from England's 1996 European indoor championship gold medal-winning squad have been included in the training party to take part in the European indoor championship in Oreense, Spain from January 23 to 25. Sue Knight, Sue Chandler, Michelle Liptrout, Mandy Nicholls and Sam Wright should all be confident of regaining their places when the final team is announced after training at Lilleshaal on December 21.

### People's choice

**TELEVISION:** Greg Rusedski, Great Britain's No 1 tennis player, won the BBC Television Sports Personality of the Year Award. Rusedski, 24, who was born in Montreal, but whose mother is English, was the runner-up at the US Open, reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and climbed to No 4 in the world rankings, the highest position achieved by any British male player.

### The magic numbers of sport

By SIMON BARNES

MAGIC numbers and free champagne: what more could possibly be desired by anyone with sporting blood in the veins? Once again *The Times* is able to offer bottled bliss, in the form of Nicolas Feuillate champagne, to anyone who contributes a Magic Number this Christmas.

A Magic Number is one that carries immense sporting weight. Some numbers carry weight for all time, like Don Bradman's 99.94 or Torville and Dean's 6. But every year throws up new numbers. How about 78, 0 and 0? These are the numbers for Michael Schumacher: the 78 points he was docked for crashing into Jacques Villeneuve, the zero points he was left with and the zero fine he was given for this potentially lethal assault.

I will judge the numbers for their champagne-worthiness and entries should be sent to me at:

The Sports Desk,  
The Times,  
1 Pennington Street,  
London E1 9XN

or by fax to 0171 782 5211. The final collection is to be published shortly after Christmas, so do it soon.

## Prop Clohessy returns for injury-hit Ireland

PETER CLOHESSEY, suspended by Ireland for 26 weeks in 1996 after a stamping incident against France, returns to international rugby on Saturday (David Hands writes). Clohessy, the Young Munster, right-head, prop, takes over from the injured Paul Wallace in the team to play Italy in Bologna, his seventeenth appearance.

It was Wallace who benefited when Clohessy withdrew at the eleventh hour from the Africa tour to South Africa this summer because of a back strain. Wallace, who played for the full side when the series, sustained a calf injury against Bath on Sunday.

Injuries to Rob Henderson and Kieron Dawson have induced further changes to the midfield and back row. Henderson suffered a groin strain near the end of Wasps' defeat by Harlequins but hopes to play again after a fortnight's rest. His place at centre goes to Kevin Maggs, whose removal from the wing allows Darragh O'Mahony of Moseley to win his third cap, two years after his first two.

Dawson has an injured ankle and is replaced in the back row by David Erskine, giving Ireland two Sale flankers: Erskine will play on the blind side with Dylan O'Grady moving to the open side.

## ICE HOCKEY

### Violence disfigures Panthers' success

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE unacceptable face of ice hockey was in evidence at Sheffield Arena on Sunday when the Steelers and Nottingham Panthers combined for 301 minutes in penalties and an incident early in the third period saw five players ejected.

Corey Beutieu, Scott Allison and Mike Ware, of Sheffield, together with Craig Nienhuis and Jeffrey Sebastian, of Nottingham, were sent packing after four minutes of the final session and, in a separate incident, Derek Laxdal and the Sheffield captain, Rob Wilson, were ejected with just under six minutes remaining.

What ice hockey was in evidence was played by the Panthers, who won 5-0: the first time this season that the Steelers have failed to score at home. Marty Dailman scored twice in the first period, Paul Adey and

Gregg Hadden added second-period goals and Jamie Leach completed the scoring with five minutes remaining. Newcastle Cobras also failed to score at home as they were beaten 4-0 by Manchester Storm.

Cardiff Devils, the inaugural Superleague champions last year, appear unlikely to repeat their success. They were beaten 3-2 at home by Ayr Scottish Eagles and have lost four of their past six games.

The teams scored once each in the first period, once each again in the second and, after a scoreless third period, it took an overtime goal by John Farco to give the Eagles the points.

They consolidated third place with this win while Manchester's success in Newcastle allowed them to maintain their two-point margin over Nottingham Panthers at the top of the table.

## SNOOKER

### Higgins sets off in pursuit of Hendry's world ranking

By PHIL YATES

WITH cue problems a distant memory, confidence fully restored and a strict practice regime in place, John Higgins believes that he, as well as Ronnie O'Sullivan, can challenge Stephen Hendry's long-held status as world No 1.

Higgins replaced O'Sullivan, the recent winner of the United Kingdom championship, as Hendry's closest pursuer in the world rankings by beating John Parrott 9-4 in the German Open final at Bingen on Sunday.

"Now it is a matter of remaining focused and not slipping back into bad habits," Higgins said. "There is no way I am going to be content with this. I want to win more tournaments this season and build up for the world championship."

Bad habits for Higgins are not the normal vices associated with wayward sportsmen. He has nothing more sordid to confess than the expensive

mistake of taking steps for granted after six world-ranking event victories between October 1994 and March of this year.

"I just wasn't putting in enough time on my game," Higgins said. "This summer I made the decision to work harder, but now I realise was only going through the motions. I went down to the club every day,

but concentration just wasn't there." Reaching the final of the Grand Prix in Bournemouth in October and the Rothmans Malta Grand Prix last month also camouflaged the fact that, by his own standards, Higgins was performing well short of peak efficiency.

The penny eventually dropped after he lost to Gary Pott in the last 64 of the United Kingdom championship four weeks ago. "It was my lowest point in snooker," Higgins said. "Thankfully, every cloud has a silver lining and at least that result gave me the kick up the backside I needed."

Higgins, 22, still trails Hendry by over 8,000 ranking points, but is determined to reduce the deficit. "Stephen is the guy everyone targets," he said. "Even though he hasn't fired so far this season, I will still have to be extremely consistent just to get close to him, but I will certainly be having a go."



Higgins confident again

## SPORTS POLITICS

### Institute remains central question

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE central consortium in the East Midlands remains the favourite to be chosen as the venue for the £160 million United Kingdom Sports Institute when the decision is made today.

After more than two years of debate and the arrival of a new Government with different views on the Institute, plans are in place to establish a network of facilities, backed with lottery money, to prepare British competitors for future Olympic Games and world championships.

At the hub of the regional network of at least 12 centres will be the Institute, which will feature training facilities and generic services, such as sports medicine and sports science. Government ministers, led by Chris Smith, the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport, and the United Kingdom Sports Council will decide today between the three short-listed candidates.

## POOLS CHECKS OVER THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

Saturday December 20									
FA CUP FIRST ROUND									
1 Arsenal v Southampton	2 Bolton v Barnsley	3 Burnley v Luton	4 Charlton v Reading	5 Colchester v York	6 Exeter v Plymouth	7 Grimsby v Millwall	8 Huddersfield v Walsley	9 Ipswich v Notts	10 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
SECOND DIVISION									
11 Arsenal v Leicester	12 Bolton v Barnsley	13 Burnley v Luton	14 Charlton v Reading	15 Colchester v York	16 Exeter v Plymouth	17 Grimsby v Millwall	18 Huddersfield v Walsley	19 Ipswich v Notts	20 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
THIRD DIVISION									
21 Arsenal v Leicester	22 Bolton v Barnsley	23 Burnley v Luton	24 Charlton v Reading	25 Colchester v York	26 Exeter v Plymouth	27 Grimsby v Millwall	28 Huddersfield v Walsley	29 Ipswich v Notts	30 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
FOURTH DIVISION									
31 Arsenal v Leicester	32 Bolton v Barnsley	33 Burnley v Luton	34 Charlton v Reading	35 Colchester v York	36 Exeter v Plymouth	37 Grimsby v Millwall	38 Huddersfield v Walsley	39 Ipswich v Notts	40 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
FIFTH DIVISION									
41 Arsenal v Leicester	42 Bolton v Barnsley	43 Burnley v Luton	44 Charlton v Reading	45 Colchester v York	46 Exeter v Plymouth	47 Grimsby v Millwall	48 Huddersfield v Walsley	49 Ipswich v Notts	50 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
SATURDAY DECEMBER 27									
FA CUP SECOND ROUND									
51 Arsenal v Southampton	52 Bolton v Barnsley	53 Burnley v Luton	54 Charlton v Reading	55 Colchester v York	56 Exeter v Plymouth	57 Grimsby v Millwall	58 Huddersfield v Walsley	59 Ipswich v Notts	60 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
SECOND DIVISION									
61 Arsenal v Leicester	62 Bolton v Barnsley	63 Burnley v Luton	64 Charlton v Reading	65 Colchester v York	66 Exeter v Plymouth	67 Grimsby v Millwall	68 Huddersfield v Walsley	69 Ipswich v Notts	70 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
THIRD DIVISION									
71 Arsenal v Leicester	72 Bolton v Barnsley	73 Burnley v Luton	74 Charlton v Reading	75 Colchester v York	76 Exeter v Plymouth	77 Grimsby v Millwall	78 Huddersfield v Walsley	79 Ipswich v Notts	80 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
FOURTH DIVISION									
81 Arsenal v Leicester	82 Bolton v Barnsley	83 Burnley v Luton	84 Charlton v Reading	85 Colchester v York	86 Exeter v Plymouth	87 Grimsby v Millwall	88 Huddersfield v Walsley	89 Ipswich v Notts	90 Lincoln v Shrewsbury
FIFTH DIVISION									
91 Arsenal v Leicester	92 Bolton v Barnsley	93 Burnley v Luton	94 Charlton v Reading	95 Colchester v York	96 Exeter v Plymouth	97 Grimsby v Millwall	98 Huddersfield v Walsley	99 Ipswich v Notts	100 Lincoln v Shrewsbury



CRICKET: ENGLAND SECURE PLACE IN FINAL AFTER INSPIRATIONAL DISPLAY BY STEWART

# Hollioake remains composed in tight finish

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARJAH

SHARJAH (England won toss): England beat Pakistan by eight runs

THRILLINGLY, yet expertly, England claimed their place in the Champions Trophy final after beating a Pakistan side that apparently had the game at their mercy. Eight runs in the end was as good as a country mile.

At 99 for two, with Saeed Anwar and Jaz Ahmed hitting the cover off the ball, Pakistan had only to bat out the overs. Even three wickets later, when Matthew Fleming came on, nothing out of the ordinary. However, the England catching matched the bowling, and Pakistan went the same way as India, beaten by seven runs last Thursday.

Two moments were of supreme importance. Wasim Akram, short of form as he is, remains a big hitter and when he swung Adam Hollioake towards the leg-side boundary he looked up, expecting runs.

## TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts	RFI
England	3	3	0	8	+0.233
West Indies	2	1	1	2	+0.233
Pakistan	2	1	1	2	-0.232
India	2	0	2	0	-0.245

What he saw appalled him. Doug Brown, picking up the flight of a ball he had "lost" in the floodlights two overs before, took off to hold a superb catch a foot off the ground.

Manzoor Akhtar had batted with exemplary sense, and now was his chance to add a match-winning innings to the four wickets that he had taken earlier. His nerve failed him. Dropping the ball down to point, as Fleming denied him room to bash through the offside, he set off for a run nobody else could see, and returned to find that Nick Knight's throw had beaten him back.

Pakistan could still have won. When the penultimate over began they needed 18, and Hollioake's failure to hit the stumps as he fielded off his own bowling conceded the single that gave Azhar Mahmood the strike. With successive balls he scored two, two and four, a thumping drive that bisected the men at deep cover.

Two more shots like that, and they were a single away

from victory. Hollioake, carnally, held back the next ball and Azhar was through his stroke before it arrived. Up the ball went, higher and higher, eventually landing in Stewart's gloves as he ran from behind the stumps to take the catch near short mid-wicket — and he wasn't done yet.

The next ball, the last of Hollioake's quota, Saqlain pushed at and then lunched from his crease, more in hope than expectation. What a fool he looked as Stewart leapt forward from his haunches, gathered the ball and flicked it back into the stumps. Steve Bucknor, the square-leg umpire, called for a television replay but Saqlain was wandering off, surrounded by jubilant England fielders, when the decision was upheld.

For the second time in the tournament England had defended their total. In this case a modest one of 215 for nine. All the bowlers played a full hand. Brown and Headley struck with the new ball. Ealham recovered from an over costing 16 to bowl with his customary tightness. Croft took two important wickets and Hollioake's ability to restrict the batsmen at the death was truly outstanding.

For a while it all looked rather different. Anwar, fresh from his hundred the day before, dazed in going to fifty from 55 balls, and when Jaz greeted Croft by blasting the second of his two vast sixes, Pakistan were beginning to make the target look very small. Then, in successive balls, Anwar played on, trying to cut, and Jaz drove to long-on. England had given themselves a second chance and how well they took it.

Their own innings fell away after Stewart and Alastair Brown had given them an excellent start. From 108 for one in the 24th over they were baffled by Manzoor's wrist spin and Saqlain's more orthodox fingers. Their spinners, three of them back-of-the-hand merchants, were responsible for bowling all but 13 overs on a pitch that was being used for the third time.

England will not mind playing on it once more. They have won three games out of three and will not feel intimidated on Friday, whoever their opponents are. Only this much is certain: if West Indies beat India today they will go through.



Stewart pulls to the boundary during his brisk innings of 47 yesterday

## SCOREBOARD FROM SHARJAH

ENGLAND		PAKISTAN	
A D Brown c Mohi b Saqlain	41	A D Brown c Mohi b Saqlain	41
14 A J Stewart b Manzoor	47	14 A J Stewart b Manzoor	47
15 V V Laxmi b Manzoor	18	15 V V Laxmi b Manzoor	18
16 G A Hick b Manzoor	40	16 G A Hick b Manzoor	40
17 G P Thorpe run out (Haz/Moh)	3	17 G P Thorpe run out (Haz/Moh)	3
18 A J Hollioake c Saqlain b Manzoor	17	18 A J Hollioake c Saqlain b Manzoor	17
19 M A Ealham c Mohi b Saqlain	8	19 M A Ealham c Mohi b Saqlain	8
20 D R Brown not out	18	20 D R Brown not out	18
21 M V Fleming c Mohi b Saqlain	18	21 M V Fleming c Mohi b Saqlain	18
22 R D Croft c Mohi b Saqlain	8	22 R D Croft c Mohi b Saqlain	8
23 D W Headley not out	8	23 D W Headley not out	8
24 Ealham b 1, b 4, w 7, nb 1	13	24 Ealham b 1, b 4, w 7, nb 1	13
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	215	Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	215
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71 (Stewart 21, 21.08 (night 14), 3-121 (Hick 9), 4-126		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71 (Stewart 21, 21.08 (night 14), 3-121 (Hick 9), 4-126	

PAKISTAN  
A D Brown c Mohi b Saqlain 41  
14 A J Stewart b Manzoor 47  
15 V V Laxmi b Manzoor 18  
16 G A Hick b Manzoor 40  
17 G P Thorpe run out (Haz/Moh) 3  
18 A J Hollioake c Saqlain b Manzoor 17  
19 M A Ealham c Mohi b Saqlain 8  
20 D R Brown not out 18  
21 M V Fleming c Mohi b Saqlain 18  
22 R D Croft c Mohi b Saqlain 8  
23 D W Headley not out 8  
24 Ealham b 1, b 4, w 7, nb 1 13  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 215

PAKISTAN  
A D Brown c Mohi b Saqlain 41  
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20 D R Brown not out 18  
21 M V Fleming c Mohi b Saqlain 18  
22 R D Croft c Mohi b Saqlain 8  
23 D W Headley not out 8  
24 Ealham b 1, b 4, w 7, nb 1 13  
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs) 215

## Women look for cutting edge

THE England women's cricket team continue their World Cup campaign today when they take on Ireland here, but, although they are expected to win comfortably and have three successive victories behind them, areas of concern remain.

There are too many ordinary teams in the preliminary rounds to produce high-class cricket. Only England, Australia, New Zealand, India, and, possibly, South Africa, have the ability to win the tournament. The likes of Denmark and Pakistan have been nothing more than cannon fodder, as England displayed by scoring over 300 runs in 50 overs against both teams — yet in neither match did England threaten to bowl out the opposition.

Pakistan and Denmark are poor sides. There are only around 100 women cricketers

FROM THERESA PETROPOULOS IN PUNE

in Denmark and many of the Pakistan team has never played a game lasting 50 overs before this tournament. However, Denmark lost only seven wickets against England and Pakistan, who Denmark dismissed for 66 in Mysore last week, lost just three in scoring 146 against England. Australia took all ten Pakistan wickets for 27 runs on Sunday.

Karen Smithies, captaining England for a second World Cup, said: "We were disappointed with ourselves against Pakistan, where the batsmen were simply stonewalling and we did nothing about it. We are missing an out-and-out strike bowler and we certainly missed Kathryn Leng against Pakistan, when we didn't have a leg spinner. We're a stock-

bowling side rather than an attacking one."

Leng has recovered from a twisted ankle and will play today. Jan Brittin resumes her opening partnership with Charlotte Edwards and Barbara Daniels is recalled.

Ireland benefited enormously from sharing the points with Australia in their washed-out game in Madras last week and their win over Denmark and a final group match against Pakistan should ensure them of fourth place in pool A and the last quarter-final spot.

India beat Holland by 93 runs in group B to enter the quarter-finals. India scored 175 for seven in their 50 overs and Holland mustered only 82 for nine. Also in group B, New Zealand were victorious by 198 runs over the West Indies, who collapsed to 55 all out in 28.4 overs.

## Captain Lara causes unrest

WARWICKSHIRE have attempted to quell members' unrest at the appointment of Brian Lara as captain for next summer. In a letter to all 15,000 members, Dennis Amis, the chief executive, admitted it had been a very difficult decision to take the captaincy away from Tim Munton on fitness grounds.

Munton missed all of last season with a back injury and Warwickshire claim they "would not be certain about Tim's real cricketing fitness until he took the field of play".

Amis said: "We therefore felt unable to appoint him captain for 1998." Warwickshire also considered Nick Knight, the vice-captain, and Neil Smith, captain in last season's NatWest Trophy final.

Answers from page 41

SHENANDOAH

(4) A river, part of the Great Appalachian Valley, chiefly in Virginia. The haunting song or sea shanty goes: "Oh Shenandoah, you rolling river." And later on, more romantically, "I love you daughter, I love you daughter, I love you daughter, you rolling river." During the Civil War, Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson won immortality during his Valley Campaign.

MERCALLI

(4) The eponym of an Italian geologist who devised a 12-point scale to express intensity at any place. Daily Columnist, 1973: "An earthquake has only one magnitude but can have several intensities on the Mercalli scale."

HACKAMORE

(4) A halter of horsehair or rawhide, having a noosepiece fitted to serve as the head of a bridle. Daily Columnist, 1973: "Her only riding equipment was a rawhide hackamore already on the horse's head."

VERBUNKO

(4) A Hungarian dance, dating from the late 18th century. It was originally danced by Hungarians in uniform in order to attract recruits. Later it became popular in the theatre. The music has two contrasting elements, a slow "lassu" and a quick, fiery "friska".

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nc7 and if 1... Qg4 2 Rb7 is mate.

## TELEVISION CHOICE

## Solid second-hand advice

Deals on Wheels  
Channel 4, 8.00pm

This is the last in the series on buying and selling second-hand cars and a good moment to halt the success of what looked like an unpromising idea. The danger was limiting the appeal to the small number of car buffs while ignoring the great majority of motorists whose tastes are more mundane. In the event the show has managed to cater for both, so that tonight a Volkswagen Beetle convertible and a Triumph Spitfire share the billing with a humble Ford Fiesta. Whatever the car there has been the fascination of discovering whether the seller finds a buyer and gets the asking price. But the undoubted stars have been not the machines but the straight-talking experts, Mike Brewer and Richard Sutton. If a model is prone to rust, or oil leaks or dodgy gearboxes, they have never flinched from saying so.

Vasecan's Day with...

Channel 5, 8.00pm

Danny La Rue welcomes Vanessa Ritz to his glamorous Hampshire home for a pre-lunch glass of champagne, memories of Noel Coward and Judy Garland at his piano and reflections on approaching his 50th year in showbusiness. He may dismiss his act as "a filler in a frock" but he is still one of the best female impersonators around, as Southampton audiences will discover as he plays Baroness Vonpoussin in *Cinderella*. The Mayflower Theatre is on the itinerary, as, less predictably, is the Roman Catholic church where Danny worships. He says he feels sad for people who have no religion: *Ritz to Face* this show is not and Ritz's liveliness can be cloying. But it is impossible to dislike a man overjoyed that he can go on stage at 70 and make people laugh.

Timewatch: In Search of Cleopatra

BBC2, 9.00pm

Wittingly or not this profile of the Egyptian queen makes an ideal companion piece to the excellent *I, Caesar* series which has been running on Saturday evenings. In the course of *I, Caesar* we have met Cleopatra as the lover of Julius Caesar and Mark Antony but it is good to have a fuller portrait. The trouble is that so little is known about her, not least



Cleopatra on her death bed (BBC2, 9pm)

her appearance. She could have been the beautiful seductress as portrayed by Elizabeth Taylor, though, though, for one, says not. She could, though, there is no evidence for this, have been black. Trying to separate sparse fact from liberal speculation, the film presents her as a clever politician determined to keep her beloved Egypt out of the clutches of the Roman Empire. When she failed she killed herself with a snake bite, though even that has been disputed.

Picture This: Accidental Hero

BBC2, 9.50pm

Once again this unsung half-hour documentary series has come up with a gem. From the tragedy of the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, which capsized off Zeebrugge with the loss of 193 lives, there emerged one undisputed hero. Andrew Parker helped save his wife, small daughter and a score of other passengers by making himself into a stepping stone across a six foot wide chasm. The media got to hear about him and the "human bridge" made headlines across the world. Parker was awarded the George Medal. But the film reveals him as more than ten years later, as a reluctant hero for whom the experience has brought far more pain than glory. The media attention plagued him for three years afterwards and when it subsided trauma and depression set in. He was made redundant. As he tries to rebuild his life, he worries that he has still not managed to cry.

## RADIO CHOICE

Aids R Us

Radio 2, 9.30pm

I really must have a word with the Controller of Radio 2 about underlings who use grotesque distortions of the English language employed by the retail trade. But once you get past the title this is an entertaining hour which celebrates, if you will allow the word, the short British history of commercials on television. The first one, for Cibbe SR toothpaste, was transmitted at 8.12pm on September 22, 1955. I expect it was about 8.13 before the first joke about ITV commercials being better than the programmes was made. This range over the territory, presented by Lorraine Chase, uses anecdotes very well to illustrate how commercials have become increasingly sophisticated over the years, particularly in their use of humour.

Literary Houses

Radio 4, 2.30pm

The connection between individual writers and the houses where they lived or worked has been done rather well in book form, but this is the first radio series on the subject that I can recall. Four houses are featured, each visited by Iain Burnsides, the novelist who is also an accomplished broadcaster. There may be some surprise that the first house in the series is Maxgate, which was the home in Dorset of Thomas Hardy and which Hardy himself designed. One might have expected a less well-trodden path to be the first to be explored, but on the other hand Hardy is perhaps the name most likely to attract a good audience for the opening programme. Each programme will feature readings from the works of the writers. Peter Barnard

## RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Grawling and Zola Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 The Today Show 12.30pm News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15pm News 6.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30pm Digital Update 8.40pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sami Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00pm Richard Stilgoe's Classical Gas 8.00pm Nigel Ogden 8.00 The Prohibition Years. George Kelly introduces more stories and music from the 1930s. 8.30pm Aids R Us. Presented by Lorraine Chase. See Choice 10.30pm Richard Ainsworth 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00am Alex Lester

## RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00 David Meltzer 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Ruzice on Five 4.00pm Newsline with Julian Worrick 7.00pm News Extra. Presented by David McNeil 7.30pm The Tuesday Match. Reports on tonight's action 10.00pm News Talk with Nigel Collett 11.00pm News Extra with David McNeil 12.00am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp 5.00am Morning Reports

## VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark 7.00 Chris Evans 10.00 (FM) Robin Shook (AM) Graham Dean 1.00pm (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nelly Home 4.00pm "It's John 7.00 (FM) Paul Coyle (AM) Gairn Jones 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

## TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Rose and Carol McGiffin 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dealey 7.00 Anna Rasmussen 9.00 James Whitley 1.00am Ian Collins

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Respighi (The Pines of Rome); Bach (Italian Concerto in F); Poulenc (Les Chemins de L'Avenir); Beethoven (Calm Sea and a Breeze); Vaughan Williams (Overture to The Rite of Spring); Britten (The Prince of the Pagodas); Debussy (The Fire of Spring); J. C. Bach (The Well-Tempered Clavier in C); Chopin (Scherzo No 1 in B minor); Dvorak (Serenade for Strings)  
9.00am Morning Collection, with Peter Hobbs. Includes: J. C. Bach (The Well-Tempered Clavier in C); Chopin (Scherzo No 1 in B minor); Dvorak (Serenade for Strings)  
10.00am Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Mozart (Eine Vision aus der Oper); Strauss (Wie du warst Wie du bist, Der Rosenkavalier); Bartok (Dances of Shostakovich); Debussy (The Fire of Spring); J. C. Bach (The Well-Tempered Clavier in C)  
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Prokofiev. Prokofiev (Suite for Piano); Hindemith (Symphonic Dances); under Yan Pascal Tortelier. Shostakovich (Symphony No 4); under Vassili Sinitsin  
4.00pm BBC News. Susan Sharpe introduces settings of words by the German poet Heine. With Turi Moller, mezzo, Susan Allen, piano, Richard Edgar Wilson, tenor, Eugene Asst, piano (f)  
4.45pm Music Machine, with Vicky Sharp

## RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55pm Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Ed Stourton. Call 0171-580 4444 with your questions for the guest of the day 10.00 (FM) News and Newsline. The Tape to Prove It. The geologist Dave Marill and his colleagues follow a trail in search of buried prehistoric eggs, looking to find traces of an ancient past (34)  
10.00 (LW) News, Daily Service  
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler  
10.30 Women's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray  
11.30pm Bedtime News. A look behind the scenes of the National Health Service with Geoff Watts  
12.00 News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with John Wiles  
12.30am BBC News. Peter Snow takes a look at stories from the Isle of Wight Herald for August 12, 1910 (4/5) 12.55pm Weather  
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke  
1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast  
2.00 News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Fillet de Sole Veronique, by Jill Bradley A culinary comedy set in Paris. With Anna Cartmel, Adja Arodi and Alison Potts  
2.30 Literary Houses. See Choice (1/4)  
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan  
4.00 News; 6.00pm Radio 4. Paul Vaughan talks to the Irish author Joseph O'Connor about his latest novel, The Salesman, and reviews Shadow Dancer, a novel by T.N.'s Northern Ireland reporter, Tom Brady

4.45 Short Story: The Innocent, by Graham Greene, read by Corinne Clarrin  
5.00pm With Charlie Lee-Porter and Jon Sopel 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 6.55pm Weather  
6.00 Six O'Clock News  
6.30pm North East of Eden. The comedy series written by Peter Karmy. With Joan Sims, Rebecca Front and James Garbutt (3/5) (f)  
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers  
7.20 File on 4. Liz Carmy reports on topical issues at home and overseas  
8.00 Science Now. A look at the latest scientific discoveries and developments with Peter Evans (f)  
8.30 The Network. Alan Lewis examines Murphy's Law as it applies to today's technology. Machines are often blamed for everything, but whose fault is it really? (5/6)  
9.00 In Touch, with Peter White  
9.30 Kaleidoscope (f) 9.50 Weather  
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton  
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Candide. Voltaire's classic satire of the 1700s. Translated by John Butt, abridged by Andrew Simpson (7/8)  
11.00 Midweek. This week's events in the media (f)  
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament. A roundup of the day's events in Westminster  
11.30 (FM) Sentimental Journey. Lloyd Grossman returns to Marblehead, Massachusetts (5/6) (f)  
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book Conversations with My Agent. Written by Rob Long and read by Rob Morrow (2/5)  
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 680, 930. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 168 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1058, 1060. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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## AMERICAN FOOTBALL 41

Dallas Cowboys drop out of play-off picture

## SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16 1997

## SPORTS BOOKS 42

Times writers offer their pick from this year's crop



England Test captain off to Jamaica heartened by one-day successes in Sharjah

# Atherton plays down rivalry with Hollioake

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE absentee captain absorbed the news from Sharjah yesterday with a detached contentment. Michael Atherton is comfortable with his decision to miss the Champions Trophy and delighted that England have reached the final without him, an eight-run victory over Pakistan yesterday preserving their 100 per cent record. But he is ready to return, refreshed by his longest break from cricket in several years and eager to resume control for the weightier business of the new year.

After a month of intensive training and individual net sessions with Graham Gooch, Atherton heads for Jamaica on Friday — not on a reconnaissance mission but for a Christmas holiday. Late next month, he will be back on the island for the first Test of a series that he passionately believes capable of giving him the greatest success of his captaincy tenure.

It bothers him not a jot that England may well now travel to West Indies as favourites. "I don't see that as disconcerting

or daunting," he said. "I would much prefer to go there with everyone in the country believing in us as much as I do."

Even Atherton does not know what the limit of his command will be when the team leaves on January 3, but he is less troubled by the conundrum than most. If it is thought that the leadership of Adam Hoolioake in Sharjah merits a show of continuity for the one-day internationals that end the West Indies tour, there will be no argument from Atherton. His only concern is that the issue should not be distracting. Ideally, it should be determined before departure.

Rest has been good for Atherton. The stress, fatigue and lost perspective of late summer, responsible for his unusual confusion over continuing as captain, has all been left behind. Yesterday, at home in Manchester but with an eye on the brain-teasing run-rate permutations in Sharjah — India, West Indies and Pakistan all still have a

chance of meeting England in the final on Friday — he looked forward with conviction and enthusiasm.

"I am ready for some cricket now," he said. "I've trained hard, with the squad and by myself and I've worked on my batting with Goochie, who has been a great help. There is no more I can usefully do indoors and I'm looking forward to getting started in the Caribbean."

He is keen to lay to rest any perception of rivalry between Hoolioake and himself. "Other people have tried to build it up but it just doesn't exist," he said. "I was not available for this trip and I'm pleased it has gone well for Adam. It's up to the selectors to decide which of us should captain the one-dayers in the West Indies but it would obviously be best to cut short the speculation with an early decision, if possible."

"I am not a bit surprised that the boys have done well in Sharjah. It was a unit chosen specifically for a one-day event, something we have not often been able to do before, and the preparation was outstanding. They have shown the benefit of that and done themselves full justice."

Although he admits to "just a moment when I wished I was flying out there with them", there is no envy in Atherton's dissection. You sense he has gained far more from the rare taste of an English winter and that England will now benefit from his refocused mind.

"I am full of optimism about this tour," he said. "Always have been, really, but the events of the past month or so have obviously helped. There is a good feeling about our team, from the management down, while the West Indies clearly have some problems."

"It was no surprise to me that they were well beaten in Pakistan, although the margins were pretty big. Pakistan are a very good side, with match-winning bowlers, and West Indies aren't as strong as they were ten or 15 years ago."



Alistair Brown, who saw England away to a good start, gave this ball from Wasim Akram the full treatment

"Having said that, they are always a different proposition at home and, realistically, we haven't got an attack to compare with Pakistan's. I'm not getting carried away, and nor should anyone else, but it doesn't worry me if the book-makers want to make us favourites."

Sensibly, he prefers to keep his thoughts private on the West Indies captaincy dilemma — a genuine, potentially unpleasant rivalry between Courtney Walsh and Brian Lara — but Atherton smiles his acknowledgement of a relief that, just for now, it is England's opponents who are

stumbling in the dark. "I have heard plenty of things about their situation but it is something I prefer to observe rather than comment upon," he said. "I can see it will be pretty interesting if they make Lara captain, though, when the first Test is on Walsh's home island."

Atherton will spend Christmas there, though as remote from cricket talk as he can achieve. He will play golf, lie on a beach and probably drink a rum or two. Next time he lands on Jamaica, it will be on serious business.

England victory, page 46

## Hoddle set to visit Morocco en route to France

By Matt Dickinson

ENGLAND'S World Cup preparations are set to take them via Africa, with Glenn Hoddle, the coach, close to agreeing to take part in a four-team competition in Morocco. France and Belgium have already signed up alongside the host country for the tournament at the end of May. England are expected to follow suit this week.

The biggest incentive for England is the chance to face North African opposition, having drawn Tunisia in group G at the finals in France next summer. Morocco, who are in Scotland's group, would be ideal stand-ins, particularly as, like Tunisia, they qualified for the World Cup finals unbeaten.

John Gorman, Hoddle's assistant, said yesterday: "Playing Morocco would have benefits, both for the players to get used to the weather and for them to face a North African team and get to grips with different styles. No final decision has been made, but the possibility of playing in the tournament is being discussed."

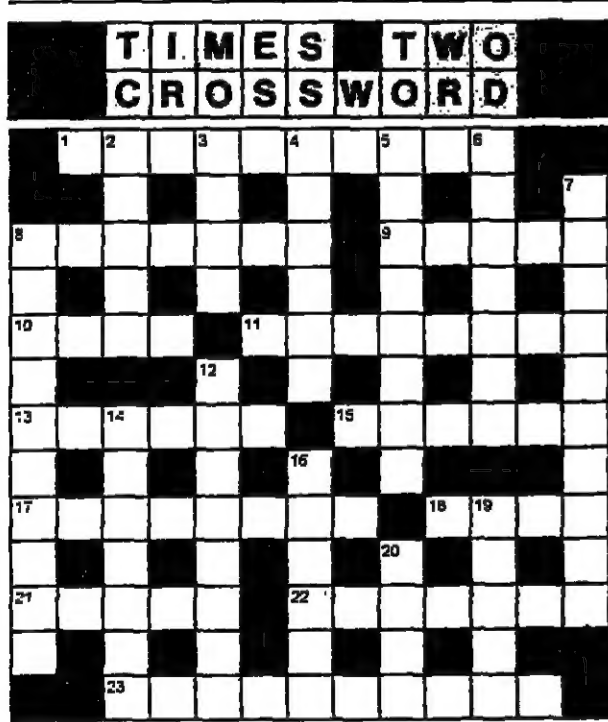
England's other opponents in the run-up to the World Cup could be finalised this week. Hoddle is keen to play a team from South America and that is likely to see a Wembley fixture in February against either Chile or Colombia, despite the latter being drawn in England's group in France. The planned trip to the United States in March is looking less likely, although an alternative arrangement has yet to be confirmed.

Whether Ian Wright, the Arsenal striker, will be involved in any of Hoddle's plans will be a topic of growing debate over the next few months. Wright was spoken to by police after his team's defeat against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday, when he shouted abuse at fans, and although no further action is likely, his frustration at his own lack of form is beginning to sour his relationship with the Arsenal supporters. Wright, 34, has more than two years left on his contract at Highbury, but Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, is busily scouring Europe to find a replacement.

Kendall's search, page 44



Atherton and Hoolioake, sharing a joke at Trent Bridge last season, could share captaincy duties in West Indies



No 1278

## ACROSS

- 1 Bardic festival (10)
- 2 Widely liked (7)
- 9 Fetter: shop group (5)
- 10 Part to be played (4)
- 11 Disconnect (linked parts) (8)
- 13 Pail (6)
- 15 Unelected admin body (6)
- 17 Hilltop path (8)
- 18 Trad. wisdom, knowledge (4)
- 21 Throw out of house (5)
- 22 Stimulate (interest): speed up (7)
- 23 Sporting-hero memorial building (4,2,4)

## DOWN

- 2 Motivate, drive (5)
- 3 Mah-jong piece: one on wall, floor (4)
- 4 Bold (6)
- 5 Man of all work (8)
- 6 Expressionless (7)
- 7 Mother of Eliza I (4,6)
- 8 (US) vote-buying funds (slang) (4,6)
- 12 On which the admired are placed (8)
- 14 Ungentlemanly: sounds like Jewish prayer (7)
- 16 Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
- 18 Old rope fibres (5)
- 20 Brief moment (slang) (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1277

ACROSS: 1 Carbon 5 Card 8 Ward 9 Renounce 10 Foregone 11 Cord 12 Aye 14 Toledo 16 Wild 18 Code name 20 Flat spin 21 Cord 22 Word 23 Breath  
DOWN: 2 Anatomy 3 Budget 4 Narrow escape 5 Council 6 Recur 7 Inverted snob 13 Audited 15 Demerit 17 Igloo 19 Niche

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## Montgomery calls for captaincy delay

By Our Sports Staff

COLIN MONTGOMERIE yesterday called for a delay in the naming of Europe's Ryder Cup captain until just weeks before the 1999 event in Brookline, Boston, saying that it is the only way of finding the best man for the job.

Montgomery, whose half-point against Scott Hoch won the Cup at Valderrama three months ago, said: "We don't need a captain until the event starts. Why do we need one during the qualification system? He won't tell us what to do at that stage."

"We don't have the likes of a Hale Irwin, a Ben Crenshaw or Tom Kite. The Americans have a choice of ten or 12 of that type of character. And, while Sam Torrance and Mark James spring to mind, they want to play. It's a terrible thing to take the

captaincy and possibly accept that means you're finished as a player. You could tell that it hurt Seve Ballesteros."

Ballesteros, whose passionate if eccentric leadership inspired Europe in his home country of Spain, has ruled himself out as captain in 1999, as has Bernard Langer, of Germany. Montgomery wants a system where the likes of Torrance and James could attempt to qualify as a player, but if they didn't, could then take on the captaincy.

Montgomery sees himself taking on the role in around eight years, but could have a rival for the captaincy when Ireland stages the event in 2005. Ian Woosnam, a Ryder Cup stalwart, said yesterday: "I would love to captain Europe in the future, ideally in Ireland in 2005."

## Jones to undergo operation today

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

GWYN JONES, the Wales captain, who sustained a severe neck injury while playing for Cardiff on Saturday, is to have an operation today at the University Hospital of Wales, in Cardiff, in whose neurological department he has been since the accident.

"Gwyn Jones's medical team has advised that an operation could aid his recovery," a statement from the hospital said yesterday. Jones, 25, suffered a significant spinal cord injury when he became involved in a ruck during the Welsh League game with Swansea and doctors are cautious in predicting the extent of his recovery.

Jones, himself a medical student, who put his career on hold for two years so that he could concentrate on playing for and leading his country

towards the 1999 World Cup, did not break his neck but sustained compression leading to significant weakness in his arms and legs. There was a degree of improvement during the 24 hours after the accident, but whether there can be further cause for optimism remains to be seen.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday sent a message of support to Jones's family. "Gwyn is an inspirational leader who has always shown great courage on the rugby field," Davies said. "I know that it will be some time before the full extent of his injury is known, but Gwyn and his family should be aware that the whole of Wales offers its best wishes that he makes a full recovery."

Clackney recalled, page 45

## Garden is looking rosy for Hamed

Naseem Hamed has taken a step in the right direction to establish himself as one of the world's leading boxers. No matter how much his friends and admirers in Britain might believe that he is the last word in boxing, he will never achieve recognition until he wins over the American public.

It is a difficult task because not only is he a foreigner, but Americans also have little interest in boxers from lighter divisions, believing only heavyweights and middleweights to be the stuff of icons. Ever Julio Cesar Chavez, of Mexico, who was one of the greatest boxers of all time, appealed only to a few outside the Hispanic communities.

When Don King offered Chavez to HBO, the head of the television cable company, Seth Abraham, said that he was only interested in the welterweight if he could have Mike Tyson as well.

## Srikumar Sen watches the world champion try to win over fans in New York

Abraham is reported to have said: "I'm not interested in the cabbage without the locomotive." The same man has now given his full backing to Hamed, a featherweight, who will be defending his World Boxing Council championship against Kevin Kelley, of New York, at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Hamed is the first Briton to head a promotion at the Garden since Ken Buchanan met Roberto Duran there 26 years ago. It is every boxer's dream to appear at the venue for the bouts of the great heavyweights, such as Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier.

The main Garden hold is 18,000, but Eric Gelfand, the venue's publicity director, said that if Hamed drew a crowd of 8,000 it would be a remarkable achievement. Gelfand expects 10,000. "That's a home run," he said, and puts it down to the marketability of Hamed. "As publicity material, Nas is as good as you get," Gelfand said. "He can never be an Ali and nothing can ever equal Ali's fight with Frazier in the Garden, but... he is an exciting showman and, if he can produce in the ring anything like what he has done outside it, he has got the goods."

Hamed handles himself well in television interviews. When asked why HBO were spending millions to publicise an unknown fighter in the United States, Hamed said: "They have the confidence in me to be a rising star. I am destined to be a legend. They are looking at a long-term investment."



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